

Leaf Collection Instructions

Identification and collection

- Get a field guide to help identify trees in the field. Use leaf structure and shape, along with bark, seeds, flowers or other identifying characteristics to identify the tree. Remember – NON NATIVE species are not acceptable. *It's much easier to identify leaves while they are still on the tree.*
- Cut leaves from tree. If possible, get a group of leaves to accurately show the branching pattern. If collecting a compound leaf, get at least one whole leaf, not just leaflets. Try to avoid leaves with disease or insect damage. Collect extra leaves so you can pick the best for your collection.
- Fill out Collection data sheet as you collect leaves.

Pressing and Drying

- Place leaves between sheets of newspaper, making sure that leaves are not folded or covering each other. Put each sample of leaves between their own pieces of paper.
- Place leaves (in newspaper) between two boards, laid on a flat surface. Place bricks, books or other heavy objects on the top board to flatten the leaves.
- Allow leaves to dry for at least a week. Change newspapers every 2-3 days.

Mounting and labeling

- Place each leaf sample of leaves on a sheet of plain white paper.
- Spread glue thinly (plain white glue is fine) on under surface of leaves, then position leaves on paper. Leave enough room for a label in the lower right corner.
- Fill out attached labels for each leaf, then glue label to lower right corner of paper.
- Place glued specimen between sheets of waxed paper, then place specimens between boards. Press them overnight.

Hand in 5 completed leaf mounts in a manila file folder. Place your name and section on the tab of the folder.

Sample Label

- Habitat –type of place where sample collected – swamp, field, forest, etc.
- Altitude – 500 ft around Harrisburg, 900 on Blue Mountain, others look up on topographic map.

Central Dauphin Herbarium
Scientific name: <i>Genus and species</i> _____
Common name: _____
Family: <i>Family name in Latin</i> <i>Town or township, state</i>
Location: _____
Habitat: _____ Altitude: _____
Collected by _____
Identified by _____
Date collected: _____

Leaf collection Instructions - 2

List of Acceptable Native Tree Species by Family

Willow Family

(Salicaceae)

Quaking Aspen

Bigtooth Aspen

Black Willow

Pussy Willow

Weeping willow - non-native
and not acceptable

Beech Family

(Fagaceae)

American Beech

American Chestnut

White Oak

Swamp White Oak

Chestnut Oak

Red Oak

Black Oak

Scarlet Oak

Pin Oak

Burr Oak

Post Oak

Elm Family

(Ulmaceae)

Slippery elm

American Elm

Hackberry

Heath Family

(Ericaceae)

Rhododendron

Mountain Laurel

Linden Family

(Tiliaceae)

Basswood

Witch Hazel Family

(Hamamelidaceae)

Witch Hazel

Sweetgum

Birch Family

(Betulaceae)

Hornbeam

Hophornbeam

Sweet Birch

Yellow Birch

River Birch

Paper Birch

Gray Birch

Maple Family

(Aceraceae)

Striped Maple

Sugar Maple

Silver Maple

Red Maple

Box Elder

Mulberry Family

(Moraceae)

Red Mulberry

Osage Orange

Magnolia Family

(Magnoliaceae)

Cucumbertree

Tuliptree (tulip poplar)

Laurel Family

(Lauraceae)

Sassafras

Bignonia Family

(Bignoneaceae)

Northern Catalpa

Olive Family

(Oleaceae)

Black Ash

White Ash

Green Ash

Walnut Family

(Juglandaceae)

Butternut

Black Walnut

Shagbark Hickory

Shellbark Hickory

Mockernut Hickory

Pignut Hickory

Bitternut Hickory

Pea Family

(Leguminosae)

Redbud

Honey Locust

Kentucky Coffeetree

Black Locust

Custard Apple Family

(Annonaceae)

Pawpaw

Horsechestnut Family

(Hippocastanaceae)

Horsechestnut

Buckeye

Planetree Family

(Platanaceae)

American Sycamore

Dogwood Family

(Cornaceae)

Flowering Dogwood

(Be careful – many landscape
dogwoods are non-native)

Ebony Family

(Ebenaceae)

Common Persimmon

Rose Family

(Rosaceae)

Black Cherry

Choke Cherry

Fire Cherry

Leaf collection Instructions - 3

CDEHS Herbarium

Scientific name: _____

Common name: _____

Family: _____

Location: _____

Habitat: _____ Altitude: _____

Collected by _____

Identified by _____

Date collected: _____

CDEHS Herbarium

Scientific name: _____

Common name: _____

Family: _____

Location: _____

Habitat: _____ Altitude: _____

Collected by _____

Identified by _____

Date collected: _____

CDEHS Herbarium

Scientific name: _____

Common name: _____

Family: _____

Location: _____

Habitat: _____ Altitude: _____

Collected by _____

Identified by _____

Date collected: _____

CDEHS Herbarium

Scientific name: _____

Common name: _____

Family: _____

Location: _____

Habitat: _____ Altitude: _____

Collected by _____

Identified by _____

Date collected: _____

CDEHS Herbarium

Scientific name: _____

Common name: _____

Family: _____

Location: _____

Habitat: _____ Altitude: _____

Collected by _____

Identified by _____

Date collected: _____

CDEHS Herbarium

Scientific name: _____

Common name: _____

Family: _____

Location: _____

Habitat: _____ Altitude: _____

Collected by _____

Identified by _____

Date collected: _____