

## 1<sup>st</sup> Year (10) / 2<sup>nd</sup> Year (20) / 3<sup>rd</sup> Year (50) 4-H Leaf Collection Project

### Helpful Hints and Tricks for a Successful Leaf Collection

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#### Garrard County 4-H Youth Development

1. Make sure you have a FULL leaf. If it is a SIMPLE leaf, please have the petiole (leaf stalk) and the complete leaf. If it is a COMPOUND leaf, please have the petiole and all of the attached leaflets. A LEAFLET IS NOT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SPECIES.
2. Leaf should be in great shape and be the best representative of the species. Leaves can vary severely, so look for a specimen without damage (weather, insect, etc.) and one with TYPICAL shape.
3. Put your leaves in a leaf press, large phonebook, in non-colored newspaper between some books, but a leaf press is the best option. LEAVES SHOULD STAY IN THE PRESS FOR **AT LEAST TWO WEEKS** IN A CLIMATE CONTROLLED ENVIRONMENT (INSIDE A HOUSE OR OFFICE).
4. Leaves should be flat in the press and try to avoid folding lobes of the leaves.
5. If possible, print out your descriptive information sheets before you put the leaves on them. Specific details about information for lower right hand corner can be found on another page.
6. Place the leaf vertically on a piece of cardstock, if possible. If the leaf is too large, angle accordingly to allow room for description in the LOWER RIGHT HAND CORNER.
7. If you are going to glue, use a small paint brush and a VERY LIGHT COATING ON THE BACK OF THE LEAF of clear glue or use a glue stick on the cardstock avoiding areas outside of the leaf shape. **\*\*You must be careful, because the dried leaf will tear very easily\*\***
8. The other option is not gluing anything, but laminating your sheets and leaves. If laminating, place your dried leaf on the page, laminating sheet over the entire sheet, laminator protection sleeve, and send it through.
9. After lamination or glue, make sure you lay them flat on a surface.
10. If you have glued, place completed sheets inside of clear sheet protectors.
11. Place in three ring binder, put name and county on the front cover, and a cover picture (if you want to).

