

# Pressed Flower Valentines

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Roses are red, violets are blue, plants can make beautiful valentines, too! Actually, pressed leaves and flowers make beautiful greeting cards for all occasions. A plant press removes the water from plants so that they will last a long time, which means you can use them to make cards, bookmarks and other works of art.

**To make your plant press you'll need these supplies:**

- **two pieces of cardboard cut to about 8"x10"**
- **newspaper**
- **paper towels**
- **string or tape**
- **some heavy books**
- **some leaves and flowers clipped from a house plant**
- **or floral arrangement**
- **white glue**
- **unlined paper**

I hope you asked permission before you picked those leaves and flowers! Very thin leaves like ferns and thin flowers like violets work best for this project, but feel free to experiment.

Put one piece of the cardboard on the table and cut or fold a two to three pieces of newspaper to put on top. On top of the newspaper add a few paper towels. Arrange your leaves and flowers flat on the paper towels, making sure their edges don't touch. Put a few more paper towels on top, and then some more newspapers and the other piece of cardboard. Tie or tape the bundle tightly, then pile the books on top. You just made a plant press!

In about a week, the leaves and flowers will be flat and dry. Gently remove them from the paper and decide where you want to put them. You can make a card by folding an unlined piece of paper in half two times, or cut strips of construction paper to make bookmarks. Thinly spread some glue on the backs of the leaves and flowers (use a paintbrush if you have one) and place them on the card or bookmarks. When the glue is dry, add your own message and artwork and your gifts will be ready.

Attention teachers, 4-H and scout leaders! If you would like to have a Master Gardener talk to your class or group about water quality, call Barbara Stendahl at (651) 480-7727.