

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PREPARING HERBARIUM

for Horticultural engineers (BSc)

The required student herbarium is intended to help the theoretical and practical knowledge of students. In the I. semester (1st fall semester), before the examination period, students must present a herbarium with 50 specimens. Horticultural engineer (BSc) students must extend the collection with an additional 50 specimens (to have a total of 100 specimens) in the following second semester (2nd spring semester).

Whole herbaceous plants must be collected (with vegetative parts: roots, stem with attached leaves, and generative parts: flowers and/or fruits) and the pressed-dried plant specimen should be affixed to a thick sheet of paper.

If the plant is longer than the paper, specimen must be folded (in „V”, „N” or „M” shape), without cutting to pieces.

Only one plant specimen must be attached to one paper (except for parasitic species or small plants or plants with different life stages).

Length or cross-sections can be made from organs altered for storage (e.g. tuber, cabbage head, onion) and fleshy fruits (e.g. berry, pepo). From the center of the aforementioned organs, a 3-4 mm thick slice can be made and placed between cellophane sheets (foil) and pressed between newspapers. Newspaper should be replaced daily until it is completely dry.

From woody plants, 25-30 cm of characteristic short shoots (stem with attached leaves) and generative organs, either with flowers or fruits, are required.

Drier fleshy fruits (apple, pear) can be used for create prints, which can be attached to the plant specimen. Fruits should be cut in the middle and pressed onto an inkpad ("stamped"), then onto a white paper.

Parasitic plant specimens must be recognizable and collected together with the host plant. Also, the host plant must be identified.

Specimens must be mounted on an A3 size drawing sheet (wood-free or half wood-free). For mounting, only the gummed paper tape is accepted. Other adhesive tapes are not allowed.

The herbarium label (specimen label) must be positioned at the bottom right corner of the sheet. The label can be downloaded from the department website for free use and print. Cells of the label should be filled (manually or with a computer) according to the instructions given during the semester.

The herbarium cannot be accepted if:

- the collected plant is listed in the Hungarian Red Book it is rare or protected by law (in this case the whole herbarium will be considered invalid). Please visit official Hungarian homepage of protected plant species.
- the plants are freshly collected, molded, poorly pressed, creased or broken
- the specimens are imperfect and are not characterizing the taxa (taxonomic level)
- the plants are incorrectly identified
- the name of the plants are grammatically inaccurate
- the plants on the sheets are not properly glued/taped
- the cells on the label are insufficiently or filled inaccurately
- the herbarium sheets are not in alphabetical order
- the labels are filled with pencil, instead of pen

Please note that in case of all plant organs, the newspapers used for pressing must be changed frequently! Plants must be under constant pressure until they dry out completely. It is recommended that freshly collected plants should be labeled before pressing (including plant name, location, date of collection and habitat characteristics).

Teachers will provide further guidance on questions regarding the preparation of the herbarium.

It is worth taking the time to prepare the herbarium. We wish you good work!

Budapest, 17th July, 2017.

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