

Pressing Seaweeds

A step-by-step guide to preserving marine flora.

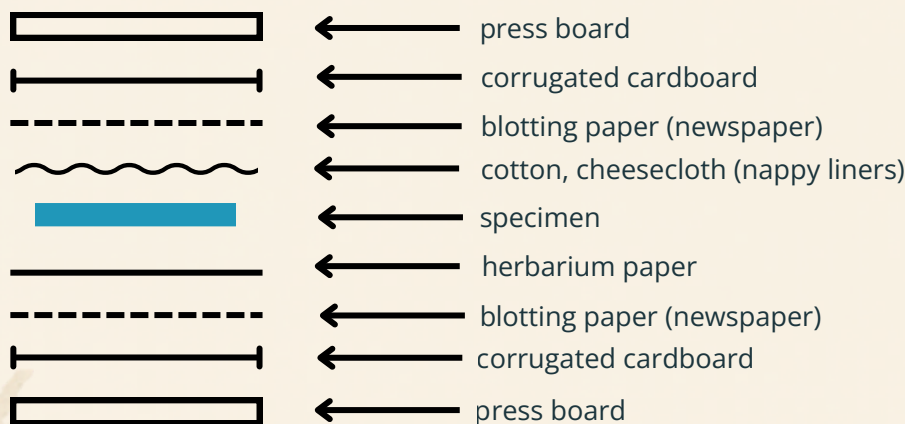
Create your own seaweed collection (called a herbarium by scientists) or seaweed art.

Collection

- A diversity of seaweeds can be found at low tide. Look for drift plants (often washed up from deeper water) or collect the outer fronds of attached plants.

Pressing

- The seaweeds should be pressed soon after collection. Float the seaweed in a pan of water and gently run your finger along it to remove any small sea creatures. Place thick paper (that does not break down in water) beneath the floating seaweed and lift it out. The final arrangement can be made with squirts of water from an eye dropper.



- A simple plant press can be made with 2 sheets of plywood and straps or ropes to bind the press. The press should be left in a warm, dry place for a couple of days or longer.

Dry Specimens

- Seaweeds have their own natural glue, so they will adhere to the paper. Thicker plants may not adhere as well, so a bit of glue or a laminating material will help.
- Add a label for identification. Include the name, collection site, habitat description, date of collection and the collector's name.