



# Leaf Collection Project



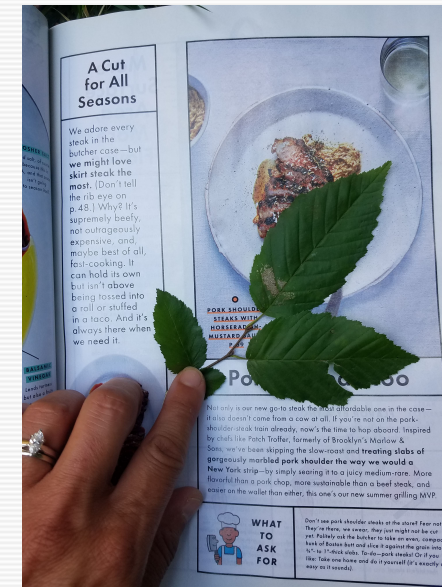
# Time to head outside!

- Late summer and early fall are a great time to collect leaves from trees and plants around your home.
- \*Note – you should never cut plants or branches that are not on your property without permission. You can always take pictures of these plants and leaves or pick up leaves that have fallen on the ground.



# What to do

- If you are headed out to collect samples, bring along an old magazine or book that you can put the leaves in. They will quickly start to curl up if you don't flatten them.
- Put each type of leaf in its own page.
- It helps to have several leaves on the branch from the tree, but if you can't get that, it's okay! You can take a picture or sketch what you see as well.
- When you get inside, sit something heavy on top of the magazine for a few days. It will help the leaves to dry flat.





# What to do

- Take the leaves out and tape or glue them to pieces of paper. Write the name and add pictures or drawings of any pinecones, nuts, berries or flowers that the tree has.
- Sheet protectors are a great way to make sure your samples stay safe, but you don't have to have them.
- Save all your pages in a 3-ring binder or folder. Keep adding to the collection with pictures from the internet, or pictures that you take yourself!
- Remember, most plants and trees lose their leaves in the winter, so you can't wait too long if you want to collect real samples.



# You can do all your “collecting” online too!

- Here are a few great sites to help you identify the species on your list this year as well as collect good pictures for your notebook!
- Birds: <https://www.birds.cornell.edu/home/>. This site is all you will need to learn about the birds you can find in your backyard. Remember to listen to their songs too!
- Trees: <https://gardening.ces.ncsu.edu/gardening-plants/trees-3/>
  - Remember to include if each tree has nuts, pinecones or other seed pods
- Plants: <https://gardening.ces.ncsu.edu/plant-id/>
  - If you can't ID a plant, you can even email a picture to the NC State Herbarium for help!