

# 4-H Forestry Project No. 3

## Know Your Trees Display



Mississippi is blessed with an abundance of forest resources. By knowing and understanding more about our forests, you will be better able to make wise decisions about their management and use. Of course, to learn more about Mississippi forests, you first need to know more about the trees within them. One of the first things you should learn is how to identify some of the most important kinds of trees.

Preparing a Know Your Trees display will not only give you an opportunity to learn tree identification, but also allow you to share with others your appreciation of Mississippi's most important, renewable, natural resource. You can show your exhibit at club meetings, county fairs, state fairs, schools, and as a display during National 4-H Week or State Tree Planting Week. You can use the exhibit when making visual presentations and even use it as a permanent wall poster in your room.

### Project Reference

Extension Publication 146 *Know Your Trees*

### Project Materials

- A 2- by 3-foot piece of posterboard
- A 2- by 3-foot piece of stiff cardboard or thin plywood (one-fourth of an inch thick)
- A crayon or felt-tip marker
- Wood glue
- An old magazine or catalog and newspaper
- A handsaw or coping saw
- Bypass pruning shears
- Three-fourths-inch molding or suitable framing material
- Leaves, twig, and fruit (seeds, acorns, nuts, etc.). Cut a section of twig with the leaf specimen from five or more of the major tree species in Mississippi.

### Sources of Help and Information

- Extension Agent, Mississippi State University Extension Service
- Service Forester, Mississippi Forestry Commission
- District Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Forest or District Ranger, USDA Forest Service
- Industry foresters with local forest industries
- Consulting foresters, self-employed
- Garden clubs and other local conservation groups

### Instructions

1. Get help in locating an area where you can collect leaf, fruit, and stem samples for your display. Make sure you have the landowner's permission to collect the samples. Collect one to three leaves from each of the trees you want to include in your exhibit. Refer to Extension Publication 146 *Know Your Trees* to make sure which trees have compound leaves.
2. Dry and press the leaves before you try to mount them. Flatten the leaves between two pieces of newspaper or paper towel. Then place them between the pages of an old magazine or catalog. You can press several leaves in one magazine. See **Figure 1**.

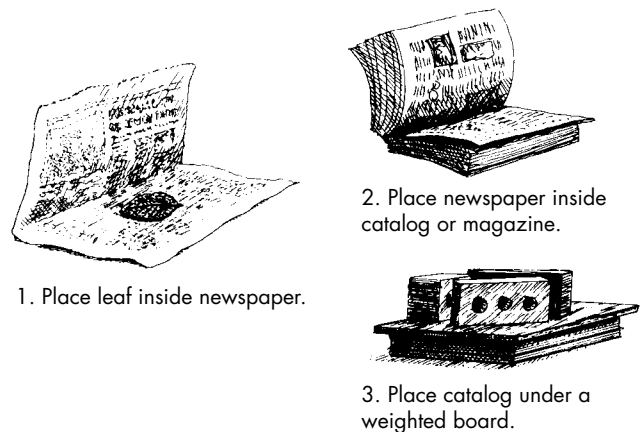


Figure 1. How to prepare a leaf sample for mounting.

3. Place a flat board on top of the magazine. Then place a heavy weight (about 10 pounds) on top of the board. The weight will force the leaves to dry smoothly and evenly.
4. Clip a 3- to 6-inch section of twig with a leaf or leaves.
5. Let the leaves and twigs dry for 1 week.
6. Make your exhibit board by gluing white posterboard (22 by 28 inches) on one side of a piece of heavy cardboard or a piece of ¼-inch plywood or fiberboard. Alternately, you can buy display board at an office supply or discount store. This will give your exhibit enough strength to hold its shape.
7. Title your exhibit KNOW YOUR TREES. Write the title in block letters 1½ inches high, 2 inches from the top of the board.
8. Frame the exhibit with ¾-inch molding or other suitable framing material. Place the leaves, fruit, and twigs on the board without glue first. Make sure your specimens fit on the board in the proper arrangement.
9. Mount the fruit 1 inch below the sample twig. You will have to split some fruits in half before mounting them (see **Figure 2**). You can split pine cones, hickory nuts, and sweetgum balls with a fine-toothed saw such as a coping or hack saw. After splitting, place the flat sides against the board. You can mount small seeds by putting glue directly on the board and placing the seeds in the glue. Make sure you use plenty of glue, and let it dry for several hours.
10. Mount the leaf and twig sample directly above the fruit. Make sure the leaves have been dried and pressed before gluing. Put a thin, even coat of glue on the underside of the leaf. Place the leaf on the board and press it down firmly. Make sure when using pine or cedar that all the needles have a thin coat of glue so they will all be fastened securely to the board.
11. Write the common name of each tree just below the fruit specimen. The letters should be ½-inch high.
12. Now that your exhibit is complete, get some good use from it. Use it in a visual presentation at a club meeting or at school. You may want to use it as a window display or at a county fair.
13. If possible, have someone take a snapshot of you and your finished exhibit. You may want to include a photograph in your 4-H member's record.
14. If possible, get a local forester to check your exhibit and sign your record sheet and include it in your current year's record book.
15. Save this project sheet and other materials for future reference as you continue in other 4-H forestry projects. You may want to make another exhibit with five different tree species.

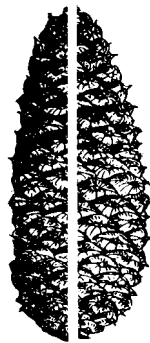


Figure 2. How to cut a fruit sample for mounting.

# 4-H Forestry Project No. 3

## Know Your Trees Display



Your full name  Your age

Grade in school  No. years in 4-H  Date of birth

Your parent's name

Your address

Name of club  County

- How many different species of trees did you use in your exhibit?
- How many of the trees in your exhibit are softwoods?  How many are hardwoods?
- How many of the hardwood trees in your exhibit have compound leaves?   
How many have simple leaves?
- List the accepted common names of five trees in your exhibit, any other common name the trees might have, and the scientific names. (See Publication 146 *Know Your Trees*.)

Accepted Common Name	Other Common Name	Scientific Name
Example: Osage Orange	Bo-Dock	<i>Maclura pomifera</i>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

- List each tree in your exhibit again and give some common uses of each tree and its wood. (See Publication 146 *Know Your Trees*.)

Common Name	Use of Tree and Its Wood
Example: Red Maple	Deer browse the leaves. Squirrels eat buds and seeds. The wood is used for factory lumber, furniture, paneling, woodenware, and pulpwood. Also, it's a good ornamental.
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

6. In what ways have you used your exhibit since you completed it? (Example: visual presentation, county fair, window display, wall poster, etc.)

7. Do you have a photograph of your exhibit?  Did you include it in your 4-H member's record?

8. Name some other ways you may be able to use the exhibit in the future:

9. Have you used your exhibit as an aid in teaching other 4-H members how to make their own exhibits?

10. List all the different people, companies, organizations, and agencies you contacted as you worked on this project:

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

11. Write any suggestions you have on how this project could be improved:

\*As a forester, I have checked this exhibit and found the specimens to be correctly named.

Area Forester

\*As an adult 4-H leader, I have checked this exhibit and found it to be completed satisfactorily.

4-H Leader

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