

# Plant Collection Assignment

## Summer Flora (EEB 4272) 2015

*Specimens in dryer: Friday June 26*

*Final Collection: Wednesday July 1*

The Collection Assignment will be 20% of your final grade for this class. It will be graded out of 40 points, on completeness, neatness, and accuracy of identification. You will share a plant press with one other student, make sure you keep track of your press and which specimens are your own. For this assignment, you will need to collect:

- 10-12 total
- 5 of these will be specimens mounted on herbarium paper
- All 10-12 observations will be recorded in our iNaturalist Project

Labels should include:

- Species name (Latin and common)
- Family
- Locality information (town, state, park, road...GPS if you have it!)
- Collector name
- Collection date
- Description/growth form (large tree, shrub, herb, etc.)
- Habitat (field, near stream, forest, etc.)
- Phenology (flowering, fruiting, vegetative)

iNaturalist\* observations should include:

- Species name: Common name (Latin name)
- GPS locality
- Picture

Where to collect specimens:

Collections are not to be done from state parks or private residences (even your own!). Roadsides, open land, and campus are fair game. Also, no collecting rare or endangered plants—you may check the Connecticut DEEP website in advance.

I am looking for a little diversity in your samples: specimens should each be of different species, preferably covering many different families and growth forms. Don't bring me 5 different species of oak!

This assignment is due the last day of class, **Wednesday July 1**. Samples will need to dry in the oven, so collections should be in lab and ready to dry by **Friday June 26**. I will arrange for times to mount specimens in lab on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday June 29-July 1.

Resources:

George Safford Torrey Herbarium: <http://bgbaseserver.eeb.uconn.edu/index.htm>

How to Mount Herbarium Vouchers: <http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/herbarium/voucher.htm>

iNaturalist: <http://www.inaturalist.org/>

**Rubric:**

Overall Collection: (10pts)

Diversity & completeness of collection: 3pts

5 specimens mounted, neatness: 5pts

iNaturalist specimens with pictures for all 10: 2pts

Mounted Specimens: 4pts (x5 mounted)

Plant name & correct ID (common, Latin, Family): 2pts

Locality, collector name, date: 1pt

Description, habitat, phenology: 1pt

Observed Specimens: 10pts (x5 iNaturalist)

Plant name, picture, ID (common, Latin, Family): 1pt

Locality, description, date: 1pt

**Total: 40 pts**

**\*iNaturalist**

Technology is playing a larger and larger role in our lives, and this year I'd like to try and incorporate that technology into us learning about the natural world! We will be using iNaturalist <http://www.inaturalist.org/> to do some of the documentation for the final collection assignments.

iNaturalist allows you to:

- record observations for public record
- interact with other naturalists: questions, help with ID, other comments
- learn more about the natural world

To do this, you will need to obtain a free iNaturalist account. You can record observations either on your computer or on your phone using the free app! Once you have an account name, please send me your username, and then make your observations to the project "**UConn Summer Flora**". I will be checking this "project" when assessing your collection!

Note: The iNaturalist phone app will automatically record your GPS location and you can take a picture using your phone right there and upload it. If you are using your computer, please try and add a description to the location. If you don't have access to a smartphone or camera, please speak with me and we can figure out an alternative.