Mounting Herbarium Specimens

The Label
* Too much glue/too much water will cause the label to curl

Place upside-down on newspaper, brush glue along edges - immediately smooth into place on sheet.

Protect the label with a sheet of wax paper as you smooth it.

Double Sheets
Woody & bulky specimens get thicker paper, but extra-bulky branches (like pine) may need a double sheet. Use the labeled backing paper & glue behind your sheet. Press & dry before mounting specimen.

Gluing Techniques
* Blot the specimen no matter which technique used

Dotting
- good control, kind of slow - try to move quickly or one side of the plant will be dry before you finish!

Brushing
- thin the glue slightly, brush off the edges of the leaves

Squiggle
- good for large complex specimens - very fast
- You MUST blot the specimen before pressing

Glue Pad
- thin the glue
- Use on sturdy specimens
- Good for some delicate specimens but glue must be fresh (or re-brush the glue pad before each plant) so they don't stick & break. Use the spatula to help move plants
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Sandbags
Wax paper
Herbarium sheet
Cardboard (use 2 layers if necessary)

Stack 4 or 5 high to save space

If a sandbag is not supporting a certain area, ball up some newspaper so that it makes contact.

"Flip" Mounting — for large flimsy specimens that would otherwise slump or flop around.

1. Arrange plant on sheet
2. Put newspaper + second cardboard on top, align in the bottom right corner
3. Dot or brush glue on the specimen holding it in place. Align herbarium sheet with left corner, front side down
4. Smooth herbarium sheet, replace top cardboard + flip back over.

Flip it!
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Things to keep in mind:

- One or more leaves should display the underside (some key characters could be hidden underneath). Flowers & fruits should be clearly displayed.
- Blot specimen with slightly damp cheesecloth to catch any glue that might seep out under pressure.
- Anything that falls off should go in a bit packet — sized appropriately for the material.
- Avoid overlapping
- Work in stages if needed — it is okay to go back to a specimen and touch up areas that are loose (especially with grasses).
- Some ferns or grasses with bulky roots will need heavier paper
- Stay within the edge of the paper
- Tall plants
- Multiple plants
- *Vary root placement sometimes
- Knock off dirt from roots