



Kankakee County
Soil and Water
Conservation District

Native Plants & Herbarium **CONSERVATION KIT**

Native plants are those that occur naturally and have existed in an area for many years without human introduction. Because they have established natural populations over a long period of time, native plants have adapted to a specific region's climate. Native plants are an integral part of an ecosystem, and have formed close, beneficial relationships with insects, birds, and other wildlife. Natives provide food, shelter, and nesting material for wildlife in our county.

Important pollinator species such as bumble bees, honey bees, and butterflies have coevolved with native plants, forming symbiotic relationships that benefit both the insect and the plant. Plants provide food and shelter for insects, while insects return the favor by pollinating the plant.

Collect and curate native plants, learn to identify common native trees and wildflowers, and explore the countless roles that plants serve in our ecosystem with the Native Plants and Herbarium Conservation Kit!

EQUIPMENT INCLUDED:

1. 4 student plant presses, driers, and paper for pressing and drying plants.
2. Pruning shears and bags for floral collection.
3. Mounting paper, glue, brushes, wax paper, metal washers, and fragment folders for mounting plant specimen.
4. Native Tree field guide.
5. Native Wildflower field guide.
6. Clipboards for on-the-go data collection.
7. Educational resource binder, dichotomous key, and labels.
8. Plastic storage containers with lids.



WITH THE NATIVE PLANTS & HERBARIUM CONSERVATION KIT, YOUR STUDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO:

Identify native trees and wildflowers: Learn how to use field guides and dichotomous keys to identify trees and wildflowers.

Document local species: Permanently catalog our county's biodiversity to use as a reference and data source in the future. Participate in a BioBlitz!

Explore biology and ecology: plant diversity, trophic levels, succession, photosynthesis, and more!

Discuss native plants and conservation: threats to native species, invasive species, habitat establishment, insect pollinators

Learn about careers in botany and conservation!

