Materials

Yvette Harvey
Royal Horticultural Society
Overview

• Why?
• Entomology materials
• Herbarium materials
• Sources and references
“It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a curator in possession of a good collection, must be in want of preserving it” ….. especially in the most cost-effective way owing to a lack of fortune

Jane Austen, Pride and Prejudice
Preparation

Images © The Royal Horticultural Society
Pins

Images © The Royal Horticultural Society
stainless steel or black enamelled pins

Verdigris damage

Rust proof with no copper or nickel (latter can react with the fatty acids in the insect and corrode)

Photo: OUNMH
Polyporus
(Bracket Fungi superceded by Plastazote)
Writing

Image © The Royal Horticultural Society
Guidance

Images © The Royal Horticultural Society
Permanent ink
Pencil
Herbarium Handbook

Image © The Royal Horticultural Society
Paper

Image © The Royal Horticultural Society
Even more papers

Image © The Royal Horticultural Society
Protection
and even more papers

Image © The Royal Horticultural Society
Ancillary Collections

Image © The Royal Horticultural Society
Collections preserved in fluid
Herbarium specimens

Copenhagen mix: 10:1:8
10 pts Industrial Methylated Spirit
1 pt glycerol
8 pts water

Kew mix: 10:1:1:8
10 pts Industrial Methylated Spirit
1 pt glycerol
1 pt formalin
8 pts water

Ref: The Herbarium Handbook

Entomology specimens

Isopropyl alcohol
Glycerol added to the alcohol may help to prevent hardening

Ref: Collins Field Guide: Insects of Britain and Northern Europe
Botanical Equipment

We have a range of equipment for botanical work listed below. Prices are subject to VAT for UK and EU customers.

B300  Botanical drying paper - per quire
      £8.60  Ex VAT at 20%  Quantity: 1
      Click for more...

B301  Botanical lens
      £27.99  Ex VAT at 20%  Quantity: 1
      Click for more...
NatSCA has a range of resources available to help support the sector, ranging from bursaries to guidance on legislation and publications informing good practice.

You can access our resources pages by using the navigation panel to the left.

Do you know of a great resource that you think belongs on these pages? Please let us know by emailing us at web@natsca.org.
Thanks to:
Amanda Callaghan, University of Reading
Emma Nicholls, Horniman Museum
Andy Salisbury, Royal Horticultural Society

Image © The Royal Horticultural Society