

## WETLAND PLANTS

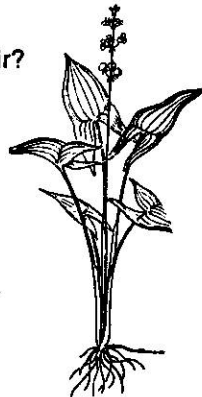
### Strategies for the Soggy Life

Wetland plants have special adaptation that help them survive. Can you find wetland plants with the following characteristics? As you look for them, think about these adaptations might help the plant live where it does. *(The back side of this card will give you some clues.)*

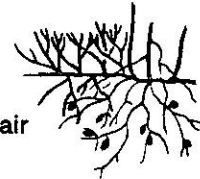
A. A plant growing in the water with a spongy stem or roots full of air?

C. A tree with wood that resists rotting?

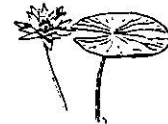
E. A tall plant with flowers at the very top?



B. A floating plant with tiny air sacs among its stems?



D. A submerged plant with leaves that float on the surface?



### Pressing Plants

1. Choose 1-3 plants most common to your wetland to press. Unless the plant is large, take the whole plant. If it's too large, try to include its important parts; roots, leaves, blossoms, etc.

2. Arrange the plant on a piece of newspaper no larger than the plant press. Cover with a second piece of newspaper and sandwich them between two pieces of blotter paper and/or cardboard. Repeat these layers to add additional specimens.
3. Place the stack between two wooden boards and bind them as tight as you can with the adjustable straps.
4. Set the plant press in a warm, dry place. After a few days, open the press. If the newspapers and blotters are moist, replace with dry paper. Rebind the press.
5. Repeat step 4 if needed. Don't remove the plants until they're completely dry. You can tell they're dry when they won't droop when lifted from the press.
6. When dry, attach plants to heavy stock paper with white glue. Label the paper with the plant's name, the date, the name of the wetland, and where it was growing in relation to the water. Don't forget to include your name as the collector!

Strategies for Survival -(from other side)

- A. Spongy stems and roots are a clue the plant can pump air to its roots through the vessels in its stem. Plant roots need air live like the rest of the plant.
- B. Like tiny life-preservers, air sacs hold plants upright in the water.
- C. Trees like cedar can live in wet soil where the roots of other trees would rot.
- D. Leaves that float on the surface can catch more sunlight than leaves below the surface. Why do plants need sunlight?
- E. By keeping their blossoms (and seeds) high, they're not likely to be flooded if the water level rises.