

# Eco Printing 101

This is how I do it, albeit there are probably many ways to do it. Kind of a trial and error based on a combination of advice from friends and on-line videos and descriptions.

## **Gather your supplies:**

Wildflowers, weeds, leaves (I have found that most tame garden flowers do not work very well, but a few do) vegi stems and leaves (carrot tops, beet leaves, etc) onion skins, etc

Watercolor paper – I use the cheaper student grade

2 pieces of heavy cardboard or a thinner wood or tin/metal the same size as your pieces of paper

Heavy string or twine

A kettle with a cover that your paper stack will fit in

Water

Vinegar

Alum (found in spice section of grocery store)

Something that will rust (nails or piece of rusty metal)

Cut your pieces of paper the size that will work for your kettle.

Layer your pieces of paper with the plant parts in between each piece, can usually do about 10-12 pieces of paper at a time.

Put a support (tin, wood, cardboard) on both ends of your stack and tie the bundle together as tightly as you can. This is where tin or wood works better as sometimes the cardboard will rip from the twine.

Place the bundle in your kettle.

Cover with water, then add a cup of vinegar and a few tablespoons of Alum and your rust source.

Cover with lid and boil for 1 hour. Make sure the water is always covering the bundle, don't let it boil off so it is not covering your bundle.

After one hour remove from heat and let cool.

Cut your string and carefully peel off the now wet, limp plant matter from each page to see the image left.

Place pieces of paper between newsprint to soak off as much water as possible, then lay out to dry.

If needed, iron the pieces of paper when dry to flatten even more.

Enjoy! Opening that bundle is so satisfying and exciting.