

Homework Protocols

7Song, Director
Northeast School of Botanical Medicine
7Song.com

May 17, 2026

Most of the homeworks in this program is based on plant identification. The plant itself can be brought in, or photos of the plants can be emailed.

How to send plant photos

1. There will be a dedicated Google Photos site for sharing photos.
 - Google Photos is free and works on all platforms
2. Please send a few photos of each plant you identify.
3. Since botanical identification is based on flowers, flower photos are helpful.
4. It is also helpful to have a photo of the whole plant in its surroundings.
5. Take photos of the main characteristics that you used to identify the plants.
6. See below 'Homework Based on Plant Identification' for the information needed for each plant.
7. List the identifying characteristics with each photo.

General Homework Rules

1. Please have all homework assignments written and readings read on time.
2. All assignments need to be legible, either neatly handwritten or typed.
3. Your name and date should be on all assignments.
4. Papers should be ordered, numbered, and stapled before handing in.
5. Homework will generally be handed back with corrections and comments within a few classes.

Homework Based on Plant Identification

Dried Plants

1. There are numerous ways to dry and tape down plants.
 - A heavy book with paper towels between the pages often works well to dry plants.
 - You can also purchase or build a plant (flower) press.
 - There are useful online resources on how to do this. Just type in 'how to press plants' and choose a method that works for you
2. When submitting plants for plant identification homework, keep in mind that the purpose is to help me determine if you have identified the plant correctly.
3. The plant should be taped or glued to paper with all of the below information.
 - The part of the plant used for identification.
 - Usually, the inflorescence and flowers, as well as the leaves.
 - Plant family (common and botanical)
 - Botanical name of the plant.
 - Common name of the plant.
 - Location (generalized) of the plant gathered. Example: swamp, field, parking lot, beach.
 - List the resource(s) used in the plant's identification (i.e., Newcomb's, Gleason, and Cronquist, etc.)

Fresh Plants

1. You can also bring in fresh plants.
2. The plants need to have the identifiable characteristics such as flowers.
3. Bring them in a container with water, so they stay fresh for a day or two after I receive them.
4. Have pages describing all the information as noted above.
5. Make sure there are labels for each plant that correspond to the descriptive information.
- 6.

Notes

1. Positive identification is not always necessary to complete the assignment. Just write what you think the plant is or what aspects are confusing for you.
2. Start with plants you know, so you can backtrack if you come to the wrong plant.
3. Later on, challenge yourself with unusual plants.