

Did you know?

Plant Detectives: Tracking the Good, the Bad, and the Invasive

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A BIODIVERSITY RESEARCHER is a person who documents native and invasive plants in managed and natural areas by making herbarium collections and collecting seeds for conservation. Without people like Biodiversity researcher's plants have the potential to become extinct. Understanding what grows in particular areas helps with replanting programs and with the correct choice of plant to place back in the area under observation.

Why this matters:

These collections record which plants are present in specific locations at particular points in time. They can be used to support restoration and vegetation projects, and to guide research on how to manage or control invasive species. Areas where this information is especially valuable include roading projects, new housing developments, sites of ecological significance, studies on climate change patterns, and places where habitats have been damaged or destroyed, such as after natural disasters.

How to Apply it:

Seeds and whole plants are collected, catalogued, labelled, in the case of whole plants a herbarium is created. You can create your own with the video given [here](#).

Additional Notes:

Pressing plants is not just about making them look pretty, it actually freezes a moment in time. Every specimen in a herbarium is like a botanical time capsule. It tells future scientists exactly what grew where and when, this helps them to track climate change, spot new invasive species and even figure out what plants once existed in places where habitats have been destroyed

Resources:

<https://sustainableliving.org.nz/environmental-scientists-key-to-biodiversity-conservation/>

[Plant science research - Massey University](#)

Want to know more? The degree from Massey University linked to this topic is the [Bachelor of Horticultural and Plant Systems](#) **majoring in Integrative Plant Biology** ask Bronwyn Dyer: b.dyer1@massey.ac.nz for more info.

What careers could I do with this knowledge?

Ecologist, Environmental consultant, Biological researcher, geneticist, climate change analyst, university lecturer, landscaper.

Do Now: Every leaf pressed helps to solve an ecological mystery in the future. Use the statement in bold to write a short paragraph about how you believe a herbarium can become a key link in making our world a better place in the future.

