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VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC
AND STATE UNIVERSITY



Tree Identification

Forest Appreciation III

4-H Project Record Book

Name _____ Club _____
County _____ Year 19 _____

CONSERVATION PLEDGE

"I give my pledge as an American to save and Faithfully
to defend from waste the natural resources of my country - its
soil and minerals, its forests, waters, and wildlife.



RENEWABLE NATURAL RESOURCES

forestry • wildlife • fisheries • utilization • marketing
outdoor recreation - tourism • management • economics

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Importance of Forest Appreciation Projects

Virginia is a timber producing state. Because of this we also have a large number of industries producing products made from wood. The paper and furniture industries use large amounts of wood from our forests each year. As our population increases we will need more and more trees for the many products manufactured from wood. With more timber available for industries to use, more wood-using industries will move into Virginia.

Unfortunately, most of our woodlands are not producing the right kind of trees or the best quality of timber. Neither are they producing as much timber per acre as they could. The result of this is that timberland owners are not getting nearly as much income from their forest land as they do from their crops and pastures.

Not all of us have woodlands to manage nor do we have open land to plant. However, as citizens of a state in which forestry is so important we should become acquainted with the value of forests to all of us, whether or not we own timber land.

In addition, the study of trees can be a most fascinating hobby. Not only can we learn to identify trees but we can also study their uses, how their seeds are spread, and many other interesting things about them.

The projects in Forest Appreciation may be taken by boy or girl, rural or city club member. They will open up an exciting new field of study for 4-H members.

Description of Forest Appreciation Projects

1. Forest Appreciation I - "Introduction to Forestry," V.P.I. Record Book 29 (R.B. 28 is designed for younger 4-H members taking this project). This is the beginning project in 4-H forestry. It should be taken by all 4-H members who want to get acquainted with our forests as well as those who plan to take other forestry projects. By taking this project you will learn what a forest is, the value of forests to all of us and some of the forest enemies. You will also learn how to identify the common trees in your local community.
2. Forest Appreciation II - "Individual Tree Studies," V.P.I. Record Book 39. We all know that trees go through many changes each year - on our hardwood trees the leaves come out in the spring, flowers and fruit are formed, growth takes place during the summer months and the leaves change their color and drop in the autumn. Most of these events take place in conifers also but are not so noticeable. The purpose of this project is to watch these things on selected trees throughout the year. It can become one of the most fascinating tree hobbies.

3. Forest Appreciation III - "Tree Identification," V.P.I. Record Book 44. 4-H members who have taken Forest Appreciation I - "Introduction to Forestry," have learned to identify ten trees. In almost every part of Virginia, even in the cities, there are from 25 to 50 species of trees which can be identified. This project is designed for you if you wish to learn to identify most or all of the trees in your neighborhood. In addition to making a collection of leaves you will also make a collection of tree twigs to help in your identification.

4. Forest Appreciation VI - "Readings in Forest Conservation," V.P.I. Record Book 65. Many 4-H members enter public speaking, essay, and poster contests. In many of these contests the subject is some phase of conservation. In others you may choose your own subject. This project makes available information to use in such a contest. If you do not wish to enter contests, you may still take and complete this project by giving a talk on what you have learned about forest conservation before a group.

Forest Appreciation III

"Tree Identification"

by

William A. McElfresh, Extension Specialist, 4-H

and

Carl J. Holcomb, Extension Specialist, General Forestry

Objective of Project

The objective of this project is to help club members become more skilled in tree identification. Forest Appreciation I introduced tree identification. This project is designed to give club members the opportunity to learn to identify all the common trees in a locality. It may be taken by urban as well as rural members. Both boys and girls should enjoy completing the project.

Requirements

1. Learn to identify 25 or more different species of trees.
2. Collect leaves from the trees you learn to identify. List the trees you learn.
3. Mount leaves or make leaf prints from leaves identified and collected. You may also collect and mount twigs.
4. List the trees in your leaf or twig collection.
5. Display your leaves, prints, or twigs at a forestry field day, school fair, 4-H achievement day, or some other event.
6. Write a short essay on why learning to identify trees is worthwhile for you.

Awards

Club members who have completed this project may compete with other club members for a county forestry award.

References

1. A Check List of the More Common Species - V.P.I. Extension Publication 298.
2. Leaves and Fruit of Virginia Forest Trees - V.P.I. Extension Publication 202.
3. What to Look For in Growing Trees - V.P.I. Extension Publication.
4. Collecting Tree Leaves For Mounting and For Prints - V.P.I. Extension Publication 304.
5. How Trees Get Their Names - V.P.I. Extension Publication.
6. Books available in local library for tree identification. Helpful paperbacks are often available at reasonable prices in local stores.

REQUIREMENT NO. 1 - Learn to identify 25 or more trees by studying their characteristics. Some of the characteristics are differences or similarities in:

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Leaves or needles | 7. Size |
| 2. Bark | 8. Color |
| 3. Twigs | 9. Taste |
| 4. Buds | 10. Smell |
| 5. Flowers | 11. Shape |
| 6. Fruits or seeds | 12. Habitat (where usually found) |

You may notice other points while studying a tree or reading descriptions of trees.

REQUIREMENT NO. 2 - List the trees you have learned to identify. (Use VPI Extension Publication 298 for correct names and spelling.)

	<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Where Seen</u>
1	_____	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____
3	_____	_____	_____
4	_____	_____	_____
5	_____	_____	_____
6	_____	_____	_____
7	_____	_____	_____
8	_____	_____	_____
9	_____	_____	_____
10	_____	_____	_____
11	_____	_____	_____
12	_____	_____	_____
13	_____	_____	_____
14	_____	_____	_____
15	_____	_____	_____
16	_____	_____	_____
17	_____	_____	_____
18	_____	_____	_____
19	_____	_____	_____
20	_____	_____	_____
21	_____	_____	_____
22	_____	_____	_____
23	_____	_____	_____
24	_____	_____	_____
25	_____	_____	_____

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Where Seen</u>
26		
27		
28		
29		
30		
31		
32		
33		
34		
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REQUIREMENT NO. 3 - Collect leaves from the trees you have learned to identify. These leaves may be pressed, dried and mounted, or prints of the green leaves may be made. (Optional - You may wish to collect and mount twigs of the trees you have learned to identify.) Each mounted specimen should have the information shown on the sample collection sheet, page 10.

REQUIREMENT NO. 4 - List the trees in your leaf, leaf print, or twig collection.

	<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Where Collected</u>
1	_____	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____
3	_____	_____	_____
4	_____	_____	_____
5	_____	_____	_____
6	_____	_____	_____
7	_____	_____	_____
8	_____	_____	_____
9	_____	_____	_____
10	_____	_____	_____
11	_____	_____	_____
12	_____	_____	_____
13	_____	_____	_____
14	_____	_____	_____
15	_____	_____	_____
16	_____	_____	_____
17	_____	_____	_____
18	_____	_____	_____
19	_____	_____	_____
20	_____	_____	_____
21	_____	_____	_____
22	_____	_____	_____
23	_____	_____	_____
24	_____	_____	_____
25	_____	_____	_____

	<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Where Collected</u>
26	_____	_____	_____
27	_____	_____	_____
28	_____	_____	_____
29	_____	_____	_____
30	_____	_____	_____
31	_____	_____	_____
32	_____	_____	_____
33	_____	_____	_____
34	_____	_____	_____
35	_____	_____	_____
36	_____	_____	_____
37	_____	_____	_____
38	_____	_____	_____
39	_____	_____	_____
40	_____	_____	_____
41	_____	_____	_____
42	_____	_____	_____
43	_____	_____	_____
44	_____	_____	_____
45	_____	_____	_____
46	_____	_____	_____
47	_____	_____	_____
48	_____	_____	_____
49	_____	_____	_____
50	_____	_____	_____

REQUIREMENT NO. 5 - Display your collection at a 4-H achievement day, fair, or other event.

Where displayed _____

Award, if any _____

REQUIREMENT NO. 6 - Write a short essay on why learning to identify trees is worthwhile for you.

Sample Page

This sample page is included to show how we suggest you arrange your leaf print or mounted leaf collection.



Common Name

Scientific Name

Name of Collector _____

Where Collected _____

Date Collected _____