

4-H Leaf Collection Project Tag Information

Eric Comley

Garrard County 4-H Youth Development

This information is to assist you with completing the BOTTOM RIGHT HAND CORNER information for the Kentucky State Fair 1st Year (10), 2nd Year (20), 3rd Year (30), 4th Year (40), and 5th Year (50) Leaf Collection Projects. I will be using sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*) as an example.

Common Name: sugar maple

- The common name, unless it is a **PROPER NOUN** [ex. American, Carolina, etc.], should NEVER be capitalized. Your computer may try to automatically do this for you, but be sure to check. If I am typing them out, I try to **BOLD** the headings of each category.

Scientific Name: *Acer saccharum* OR Scientific Name: *Acer saccharum*

- The scientific name or binomial should either be italicized or underlined. The genus [the first word in the name] must ALWAYS be capitalized and the species [second word in the name] must ALWAYS be lower-cased. Also, make sure you check your spelling. Latin is not a traditionally recognized language for computers and they may try to auto-correct your spellings. Check and double-check.

Common Uses: wildlife food, maple syrup

- Use COMMON uses for each tree. Finding an obscure use doesn't help, but it will make judges have to search for your source of information. The FOR-1 Publication from UK has a list of those uses with each tree description.

County Collected: Garrard

- Only put the county. Additional information is not necessary.

Date Collected: June 2019

- Month and Year is the only thing necessary. Anything more and it will be counted incorrect by judges.

Habitat: moist, rich sites with well-drained soil

- Put general information to the specific TYPE of tree and not where you found the tree, from which you collected the leaf. The habitat gives you a lot of information about where it is growing. Labelling the habitat as "local park" or "Grandma's Yard" will be counted



incorrect.

With all of that in mind, this is how your label in the BOTTOM RIGHT HAND CORNER of each page should look.

Common Name: sugar maple

Scientific Name: *Acer saccharum*

Common Uses: food for wildlife, maple syrup

County Collected: Garrard

Date Collected: June 2019

Habitat: moist, rich sites with well-drained soil

The common mistakes that will get points deducted are:

1. Misidentification of specimen
2. Non-native or invasive species in the collection
3. Misspelling of common or scientific names
4. Leaf is in poor condition or was not properly pressed (wet when mounted will usually result in moldy leaves) and mounted
5. Turning in a leaflet for a compound leaf
6. Putting too much information for the "Date Collected"
7. Not giving the appropriate information for "Habitat"
8. Having MORE or LESS leaves in the collection than required

