



## Pressing Plants Matters At SBG: Why Herbarium Specimens Still Matter In 2026

### Description

**Pressing Plants Matters** at the Botanical Art Gallery is a small but meaningful Singapore Botanic Gardens exhibition that explains why pressed-plant specimens still earn their keep in 2026. In the age of phone cameras and AI plant ID, herbarium specimens remain the gold standard for botanical research.

The exhibition lives inside SBG's heritage precinct, sits a short walk from the Tanglin Gate, and is free.



Source: NParks / Singapore Botanic Gardens

## Pressing Plants Matters at a glance

- **Venue:** Botanical Art Gallery, Singapore Botanic Gardens.

- **Focus:** Why pressed plant specimens still drive modern botanical science.
- **Cost:** Free entry.
- **Best for:** Science-curious families, students, nature illustrators, anyone who likes a quiet museum hour.

## Why pressed plants still matter in 2026

Herbarium specimens — flat-pressed and mounted plant samples — are the reference library of modern botany. They preserve DNA, leaf structure, flowering parts and exact collection metadata in a way a photo simply cannot. Researchers tracing climate-shift effects, invasive species and crop-disease histories all return to herbarium collections decades or centuries later.

The Singapore Botanic Gardens Herbarium holds over 750,000 specimens — one of Southeast Asia's most important repositories.

## What the exhibition covers

- **Field-to-folder workflow** — how a plant becomes a specimen.
- **Historical specimens** — selected sheets from the SBG Herbarium archive.
- **Modern uses** — climate, biodiversity and conservation research.
- **Digital herbarium** — how SBG is digitising its collection.

## How to pair the visit

- **In Green** — **Asuka Hishiki** at the same Botanical Art Gallery — a complementary watercolour-art take.
- **Forest Discovery Centre** — kids' content nearby for the family group.
- **Healing Garden** — for the medicinal-plants angle.
- **Park Side by PS.Cafe** — for the post-visit lunch.

## Plan your visit

- **MRT:** Botanic Gardens (CC19/DT9) — Tanglin Gate is closest.
- **Hours:** Botanical Art Gallery typically 9am-6pm daily — confirm via the SBG calendar.
- **Time needed:** 30-45 minutes for a careful read.
- **Sketching:** Welcomed — bring a pencil and small pad.

One of the quieter SBG stops with a serious payoff for anyone interested in how science actually works behind the headlines.

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