

Leaf Casting

Capturing the beauty and unique aesthetic qualities of the plants that grow in your garden can be easily done through the creative art of printmaking! Printmaking works well in the garden in any season, since each time of year offers a new variety of patterns and forms in the plant world to print. Also, experimenting with different printmaking techniques and styles will allow you to create infinite creations with a single leaf.

Leaf casting is a technique that captures the print of a leaf through a process of casting it into concrete. Not only is it useful in terms of preserving the intricate patterns and natural beauty of the garden harvest, but the castings themselves also become beautiful ornamental garden art. Each casting is as unique as the leaf that created it and can be made into a birdbath, birdseed feeder, garden path ornament, or an indoor decoration. This activity has widespread appeal because it doesn't require a lot of technical skill or artistic talent, is a fairly quick casting process, and is enjoyable for young and old alike!

For step-by-step instructions on how to make a leaf casting and other printmaking techniques, visit the Dig Art! website: www.hort.cornell.edu/gbl/digart



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Dig Art! Cultivating Creativity in the Garden is a new project guide for youth that integrates gardening with the arts.