Grass paper

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Recipe by Gabriella Timanti. This can result in a flat sheet of paper or molded in a 3D shape, as depicted below.



Tools:

- Hot plate
- Cooking pot
- Spoon
- Flat surface
- Blender
- Rolling pin
- Drainer / strainer
- Large rectangular tub
- Mould and Deckle
- Cloths
- Some type of weight (heavy books do well)

Ingredients:

- Water 10 kg / L
- Grass 1 kg
- Soda ash 10 gr (washing soda, sodium carbonate Na2CO3)

Method:

1. Boil the grass (freshly cut or not) in water with soda ash for 1-2 hours. Stir occasionally.
2. Drain grass.
3. Beat the grass with a rolling pin/mallet hammer or similar until slightly pulpy.
4. Fill a large tub with water until about half full.
5. In your blender, put a bit of water and grass until it becomes a pulp. Empty into the tub after each go.
6. If you want, add petals or any other material you with to show on top of the grass paper.
7. Swish your hand through the water to make sure the fibres are evenly spread through the water.
8. Using the mould and deckle, whilst holding firmly, scoop up some pulp and hold horizontally until the water has drained through back into the tub.
9. Flip onto a cloth and peel the deckle off. Then place another cloth on top.
10. Repeat steps until you feel you cannot make anymore sheets.
11. Lay a heavy weight on top of the sheets for 20 minutes.
12. Then, remove the weight and place the paper sheets spaced out on a flat surface (or a mould if you want to achieve shape), so they can dry out.

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