

GOOD WILDCRAFTING PRACTICES
Wildcrafting Practices
“Species-Specific” Template

- * **Latin name**
- * **Family**
- * **Common names**
- * **Synonyms (Latin)**
- * **Photo**
- * **Description of Plant for Identification**
 - Distribution
 - Habitat
 - Ecology
 - Altitude
 - Life form
 - Range
- * **Similar species and common misidentification errors**
- * **Part of the plant used medicinally** – table of parts of the plant used. Referenced in literature
- * **Harvest Area**

Any possible concerns with where the plant grows vis a vis harvesting. Ensure that the harvest area is not contaminated with heavy metals, industrial pollutants, pesticides or herbicides, or run off from roads or mines.

The harvest area should not be within the fall out area for industrial pollutants as the plants can absorb pollutants through their leaves even if the pollutants are not found in significant amounts in the soil¹. Check with landowner that harvest area has not been sprayed with herbicide or pesticides. If the history of the harvest site or any adjacent waterway is not known a soil sample should be tested for the above pollutants. Harvesting should not take place within 50metres of main roads².

* **Harvest time** – correct time of year to harvest. Referenced.

* **Harvest Method**

The plant should be identified using “Good Practices for Plant Identification for the Herbal Industry”³. If there is any doubt about identity of the plant seek an experienced person to confirm identity;

Detailed description of sustainable harvest method for each species for area; sustainable harvest rate (if known), tools to use etc. Referenced.

(sustainable rates will differ in different areas, see regeneration below) APPENDIX 1 GOOD WILDCRAFTING PRACTICES Species Specific Template – Draft July 2006 24

The following practices should be avoided as they may cause overheating and deterioration in quality of the product. DO NOT: harvest into plastic bags, pack a large amount of plant into a harvesting container, leave the plant piled up for any period of time prior to drying, bruise the plant during harvesting, harvest on a hot day. Do not delay transporting plant to drying facility.

Harvested plant material should be collected in clean containers and contact with the ground should be avoided. Harvesting containers or tarps must be cleaned between harvest batches.

In order to ensure that the harvesting is not negatively impacting the stands you are collecting from you must monitor and record the sustainability of your harvesting operations on an on-going basis.

- always make sure there are enough mature plants left after harvesting to maintain habitats that other wildlife depend on;
- avoid damage to neighbouring species, especially rare or threatened species;
- take particular care with species that have symbiotic relationships or otherwise depend on each other;
- avoid harvesting operations that lead to erosion or damage to sensitive habitat, and
- take and keep samples of each batch harvested⁴.

Harvester must have clean hands and be free of any disease that is transmittable through food.

Tools must be cleaned between harvest batches;

* **Harvest Records**^{5, 6}

The harvester must keep records of each harvest batch which should include identification of the plant, name of plant in Latin, common name, harvest date, harvest location (using map reference or indicated on a map), part harvested, quantity harvested, sustainable harvest rate for area (if known), harvest rate for this harvest, quality of material collected, unusual weather during the growing season that might influence plant constituents, delays in getting the plant to drying stage which would affect quality. Each harvest batch must be given a batch code that will correspond with the record for the harvest batch and with the batch sample and this code will follow the batch through drying, processing and storage or to whatever point the material is sold. Record sale details including name and contact details of buyer. Records should be kept for two years. CHSNC⁷ is in the process of developing templates for GAP records that can be used for wildcrafting. The “Good Practices for Plant Identification for the Herbal Industry”⁸ can be used to document plant identity.

* **Regeneration**

Regeneration methods, rates and response to harvest. Referenced.

Regeneration and sustainable harvest rates will be site specific. If possible permanent sample plots must be set up to monitor and assess sustainability and harvest impact. This will almost certainly be required should organic certification become available in the future.
APPENDIX 1 GOOD WILDCRAFTING PRACTICES Species Specific Template – Draft July 2006 25

*** Preparation for Drying**

Instructions for special preparation if necessary e.g. some roots must be cut prior to drying as they will not dry properly.

*** Drying Methods**

Temperature and any special problems the species might be prone to during drying - Referenced.

Drying racks should be labeled individually with the name of the drying herb and the code applied at harvesting. Any problems associated with drying must be recorded with the corresponding batch records.

Drying, processing and storage facilities should provide protection of the plant-material against pests, rodents, insects, birds, and pets and other domestic animals⁹.

Drying racks must be cleaned between harvest batches.

*** Processing**

Method of cutting etc, size of screen if appropriate – Referenced.

Fresh processing – juicing etc.

*** Storage**

Species-specific storage needs – Referenced.

Each harvest batch must be stored in a clean storage container, which must be labeled appropriately with the name of the plant, quantity and the code applied at harvesting. Details of any problems that occurred during storage (e.g. Loss of heat, overheating, insect infestation in building etc.) must be recorded with the corresponding batch records.

Drying, processing and storage facilities should provide protection of the plant-material against pests, rodents, insects, birds, and pets and other domestic animals¹⁰. The storage area should be heated to avoid damp and mould, but not at high temperatures as degradation of the product will occur.

*** Toxicity or Health and Safety Cautions for Harvesters**

Problems with handling plant, potential sensitizers or allergens. Cautions for harvesting and processing - referenced.

*** Extraction techniques**

Form in which the plant is usually extracted e.g. tincture, fluid extract, encapsulation, infusion and decoction, juice, syrup¹¹ etc.

*** Identification of Commercial Product:**

Pharmaceutical name in commerce.

Macroscopical and microscopical identification, taste and odour of commercial dried herb – referenced.

*** Official Monographs**

List of official English language monographs available for the species. APPENDIX 1 GOOD WILDCRAFTING PRACTICES Species Specific Template – Draft July 2006 26

*** Land Access for Harvesting**

Private Land: Written permission to harvest must be obtained from the landowner.

Crown Land: No permission or license is required however harvesting must be carried out within provincial Ministry guidelines. In BC such harvesting is subject to the Forest and Range Practices Act.¹²

First Nations Reserve Land: Permission must be obtained from the Band with details of exactly what you wish to harvest. For many First Nations harvesting of medicinal plants is a spiritual practice with strict rules about how the harvest is carried out. Knowledge of and respect for these practices should be a part of any request for permission to harvest.

National or Provincial Parks: It is illegal to harvest in National or Provincial Parks.

*** Points of Concern**

Vulnerability; legislation; protection and population status; potential concerns and problems associated with wildcrafting of this species; benefit sharing. Referenced.

*** References**

NOTE

The “species specific” GWP’s are designed to be used in conjunction with the “*Good Practices for Plant Identification for the Herbal Industry*”(Brigham2003) and the “*Good Agriculture Practice Workbook*” for medicinal plants developed by the Canadian Herb, Spice and Natural Health Products Coalition (CHSNC 2005). The latter is currently in draft form. These workbooks provide detailed steps for documenting the processes and procedures involved in wild harvesting and processing raw medicinal herbs from identification for harvest to drying and storing.

- ¹ Barona, A., Romero, F. *Relationships among metals in the solid phase of soils and in wild plants*. Department of Chemical Engineering and Environment, Engineering High School, University of Basque Country, Alda Urquijo s/n 48013 Bilbao, Spain. 1996.
- ² Soil Association UK. 2005. *Wild Harvesting Standards*. Chapter 9. Soil Association UK, Bristol House, 40-56 Victoria Street, Bristol, BS1 6BY, UK. Available at: <http://www.soilassociation.org>. 2005
- ³ Brigham, Tim, Michelle Schröder and Wendy Cocksedge. 2004. *Good Practices for Plant Identification for the Herbal Industry*. Saskatchewan Herb and Spice Association. February 2004. Available from <<http://www.saskherbspice.org/Good%20Practices%20for%20plant%20identification.pdf>>.
- ⁴ *Soil Association Wild Harvesting Standards*. Soil Association UK, Bristol House, 40-56 Victoria Street, Bristol, BS1 6BY, UK. Available at: <http://www.soilassociation.org>
- ⁵ IMO (Institute for Marketecology) and Klaus Durbeck Consulting. 2005. *Guidance Manual for Organic Collection of Wild Plants*. Switzerland: SIPPO
- ⁶ Canadian Herb, Spice and Natural Health Products Coalition. *A Good Agricultural Practice Workbook*. DRAFT. Version 1/2005. Available from: www.nationalherbspice.com
- ⁷ Canadian Herb, Spice and Natural Health Products Industry. *A Good Agricultural Practice Workbook*. DRAFT. Available from: www.nationalherbspice.com
- ⁸ Brigham, Tim, Michelle Schröder and Wendy Cocksedge. 2004. *Good Practices for Plant Identification for the Herbal Industry*. Saskatchewan Herb and Spice Association. February 2004. Available from <<http://www.saskherbspice.org/Good%20Practices%20for%20plant%20identification.pdf>>.
- ⁹ Harnischfeger, G. Proposed Guidelines for Commercial Collection of Medicinal Plant Material. *Journal of Herbs, Spices and Medicinal Plants*. Vol 7(1). Haworth Press. 2000 APPENDIX 1 GOOD WILDCRAFTING PRACTICES Species Specific Template – Draft July 2006 27
- ¹⁰ Harnischfeger, G. Proposed Guidelines for Commercial Collection of Medicinal Plant Material. *Journal of Herbs, Spices and Medicinal Plants*. Vol 7(1). Haworth Press. 2000
- ¹¹ American Botanical Council. Web based educational resource. *Terminology*. Available at: http://www.herbalgram.org/default.asp?c=ed_terminology_2006
- ¹² British Columbia Ministry of Forests and Range, Non-timber forest products. Available at: http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/dcs/General/nontimber_forest_products.htm

The following people were contacted and documents and websites were reviewed. The information was compiled to create the “Species Specific” draft template.

Alberta Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development. *Commercial Medicinal Herb Enterprise*. Available at: [http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/agdex581?opendocument](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/agdex581?opendocument)

Blumenthal et al. editors. 2000. *Herbal Medicine: Expanded Commission E Monographs*. Boston (MA): Integrative Medicine Communications; Available online at: http://www.herbalgram.org/default.asp?c=herbal_medicine_online

Bodeker, G. 2002. *Medicinal Plants: Towards Sustainability & Security*. University of Oxford, UK: Green College

Brigham, Tim, Michelle Schröder and Wendy Cocksedge. 2004. *Good Practices for Plant Identification for the Herbal Industry*. Saskatchewan Herb and Spice Association. February 2004. Available from <<http://www.saskherbspice.org/Good%20Practices%20for%20plant%20identification.pdf>>.

British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture and Lands. 2006. *Herbs and Specialty Crops*. Web resource. Available at: http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/busmgmt/budgets/herb_specialty.htm

British Columbia Ministry of Forests and Range. 2006. *Guidelines for Collecting Non-Timber Forest Products in the Cascades Forest District*. Available at: http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/dcs/General/nontimber_forest_products.htm

British Herbal Pharmacopoeia. 1983. British Herbal Medicine Association.

Canadian Herb Spice and Natural Health Products Coalition. *A Good Agricultural Practice Workbook*. DRAFT. Version 1/2005. Available from: www.nationalherbspice.com

Canadian Organic Growers. Pers. Communication. 2006. <http://www.cog.ca/cb.htm>

Cunningham, Anthony B. 2001. *Applied ethnobotany : people, wild plant use, and conservation*. London ; Sterling, VA : Earthscan.

Denham, P. 1995. The Silphion Project. *HerbalGram*. 1995;35:52 © American Botanical Council

Denham, A. Personal communication re: the Silphion Project.

Drum, R. 2005. *Devil's club, Oregon Grape, Chapparal. Three traditional herbs in contemporary practice*. Available at: <http://www.ryandrum.com/wildcrafting.htm>

Drum, R. 2006. *Wildcrafting Medicinal Plants*. Available at: <http://www.ryandrum.com/wildcrafting.htm>

Dunjia, L., Peaeana, D. 2003. *Medicinal Plants. Manual for Collectors based on Principles of Organic Production*. Bosnia and Herzegovina. Switzerland: SIPPO/GTZ APPENDIX 1 GOOD WILDCRAFTING PRACTICES Species Specific Template – Draft July 2006 28

European Herb Growers Association (EUROPAM). 2003. *Guidelines for Good Wildcrafting Practice (GWP) of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants*. 24 November 2003. Available at: <http://www.europam.net/GWP.htm>

Fédération UPA Gaspésie-Les Îles, Quebec. *Les Produits forestiers non ligneux. Fact Sheets*. Available at: http://www.gaspesielesiles.upa.qc.ca/fhtm/fproduits_forestiers_upa.htm

Forest Stewardship Council. 2002. *The Forest Stewardship Council and Non-Timber Forest Product Certification: A discussion paper*. Available at: http://www.fsc.org/keepout/en/content_areas/77/59/files/NTFP_paper_with_new_header.PDF

Forest Stewardship Council. 2002. *Non-Timber Forest Products Certification Standards Addendum. Guidance Notes*. Available at: <http://www.rainforest-alliance.org/programs/forestry/Smartwood/certification/pdfs/ntfp-addendum-generic-guidelines.pdf>

Gladstar, R. 2000. *Planting the Future*. Rochester, Vermont: Healing Arts Press.

Harnischfeger, G. 2000. Proposed Guidelines for Commercial Collection of Medicinal Plant Material. *Journal of Herbs, Spices and Medicinal Plants*. Vol 7(1). Haworth Press.

IMO (Institute for Marketecology) and Klaus Durbeck Consulting. 2005. *Guidance Manual for Organic Collection of Wild Plants*. Switzerland: SIPPO <www.imo.ch>

Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service. 2004. *A Growers Guide*.

ISSC-MAP. 2005. *International Standards for the Wild Collection of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants. Draft 2*. see Leaman ref.

Keane, K. 2005. Wildcrafting. Harvesting Plants from a Native Wild Environment. *Wholeness and Wellness Journal of Saskatchewan*. Vol 10:6

Keane, K. *Wildcrater's Ethic*. Available at: Save our Species <http://www.sasktelwebsite.net/david079/wildcraf.htm>

Leaman, D.J. and S. Salvador. 2005. *An international standard for the sustainable wild collection of medicinal and aromatic plants (ISSC-MAP): principles, criteria, indicators, and means of verification*. Draft 2, April 2005. Steering Group for the Development of Practice Standards and Performance Criteria for the Sustainable Wild Collection of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants.

Letchworth, B. *The Industry of Wildcrafting, Gathering, and Harvesting of NTFPs: An Insider's Perspective*. Barb Letchworth is the Commodity Manager, Frontier Natural Products Cooperative, 3021 78th Street, P.O. Box 299, Norway, Iowa 52318, USA; Available at: http://ncrs.fs.fed.us/pubs/gtr/other/gtr-nc217/gtr_nc217page128.pdf

Lonner, J. Thomas, M. 2002. *A Harvester's Handbook to Wild Medicinal Plant Collection in Kosovo*. USAID Agribusiness Development Sector Circular 007. Available at: www.kosovoherbs.com

Medicinal Plant Specialist Group (MPSG). 2006. *International standard for sustainable wild collection of medicinal and aromatic plants (ISSC-MAP)*. Working Draft (June 2006). Steering Group for the Development of an International Standard for the Sustainable Wild Collection of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants.

Miller, R. 1985. *The Potential of Herbs as a Cash Crop*. Missouri: Acres. APPENDIX 1 GOOD WILDCRAFTING PRACTICES Species Specific Template – Draft July 2006 29

Missouri Alternatives Center. *University Extension Guidesheets/factsheets*. Available at: <http://agebb.missouri.edu/mac/links/index.htm>

North Carolina State University and North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. *Medicinal Herbs for Commerce Project. Horticulture Information Leaflets*, North Carolina State University, Co-operative Extension. Available at: http://plants.nrcs.usda.gov/cgi_bin/topics.cgi?earl=alt_crop.cgi
Northern Forest Diversification Centre. Wildcrafter Certification and Wildcrafted Plant Fact Sheets. Available from: <http://www.nfdc.ca/>

Pacific Agriculture Certification Society. Available at <http://www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/cb/pacs.php>. Pers. communication.

Planta Europea. *Plant Conservation Strategy*. Available at: http://www.plantaeuropa.org/html/about_pe.htm

Plants for a Future. *Edible, Medicinal and Useful Plants for a Healthier World*. Available at: <http://www.pfaf.org/database/>

Pierce, Alan R. and Sarah A. Laird. 2002. "Sustainable Botanicals: In Search of Comprehensive Standards for Non-Timber Forest Products in the Botanicals Trade." *International Forestry Review*. Available at: http://www.medplant.net/modules/DownloadsPlus/uploads/Electronic_Conferences/Sustainable_Botanical_-_S_Laird.doc.

Pierce, A., Laird S., Malleson R. 2002. *Annotated Collection of Guidelines, Standards and Regulations for Trade in Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) and Botanicals*. New York: Rainforest Alliance. Priest & Priest: Herbal Medication, A Clinical and Dispensary Handbook. 1982, L.N.Fowler & Co. Ltd., Essex, UK. ISBN 01-85243-368-9.

Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food. *Special Crops*. Available at: http://www.agr.gov.sk.ca/DOCS/crops/special_crops/burdock0007.asp?firstPick=Crops&secondpick=Special%20Crops&thirdpick=Production%20Information

Save Our Species. <http://www.sasktelwebsite.net/david079/sos.htm>

Soil Association UK. 2005. *Wild Harvesting Standards*. Chapter 9. Soil Association UK, Bristol House, 40-56 Victoria Street, Bristol, BS1 6BY, UK. Available at: <http://www.soilassociation.org>

Schippmann, U., Danna J. Leaman and A. B. Cunningham. *Impact of Cultivation and Gathering of Medicinal Plants on Biodiversity: Global Trends and Issues*. Published in FAO. 2002. Biodiversity and the Ecosystem Approach in Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. Satellite event on the occasion of the Ninth Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Rome, 12-13 October 2002. Inter-Departmental Working Group on Biological Diversity for Food and Agriculture. Rome
Schippmann, Uwe., Müller, S. Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Species Data Sheet. Draft Template developed with Silvia Muller. Personal communication with Dr. Schippmann.

Siska Traditions Ethical Picking Practices. STEPP. Chief Fred Sampson. Siska Indian Band, Bx 519, Lytton, B.C. V0K 1Z0.

Tilford, G. 1993. *Ecoherbalists Fieldbook*. Montana: Mountain Weed Pub

United Nations Environment Programme. Convention on Biological Diversity. 1992. Available online at: <http://www.biodiv.org/> APPENDIX 1 GOOD WILDCRAFTING PRACTICES Species Specific Template – Draft July 2006 30

United Plant Savers. Available at: <http://www.unitedplantsavers.org/index.php?mact=News.cntnt01.detail.0&cntnt01articleid=48&cntnt01returnid=31>

Vance, N. Thomas J. Eds. 1997. *Special Forest Products: Biodiversity Meets the Marketplace*. Pacific Northwest Research Station. USDA forest Service. General Technical Report GTR-WO-63

Vance, N., Melissa Borsting, David Pilz *Special Forest Products - Species Information Guide for the Pacific Northwest*. USDA Forest Service. Pacific Northwest Research Station. <http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/pubs/gtr513/gtr513b.pdf>

Whitten, G. 1997. *Herbal Harvest. Commercial organic production of quality dried herbs*. Melbourne, Australia: Blooming Books.

Wolf, Wanda. Lonewolf Native Plant & Herb Farm, Phippen, Saskatchewan. www.lonewolfherbdir.com

World Health Organisation. 1999. *Monographs on Selected Medicinal Plants. Volume 1*. <http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/1999/9241545178.pdf>

World Health Organisation. 2002. *Monographs on Selected Medicinal Plants. Volume 2*. <http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2002/9241545372.pdf>

Amanda Howe MSc
Box 1000, Cumberland, BC,
V0R 1S0
blackbearherbs@gmail.com

World Health Organisation 2003. *WHO guidelines on good agricultural and collection practices (GACP) for medicinal plants*. Geneva. Available online at: <http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2003/9241546271.pdf>
WWF. 2002. *WWF–UK comments to EUROPAM's GAP and GWP guidelines*. Available at: <http://www.wwf.org.uk/filelibrary/pdf/GAPGWPguides.pdf22>

*Amanda Howe MSc
Box 1000, Cumberland, BC,
V0R 1S0
blackbearherbs@gmail.com*