

***LIVING WITH THE LAND:
Wild Plant Survival Booklet Project
Edible, Medicinal, and other Uses
for Common Plant Species***



Native Americans and early settlers had to live off of the land to survive, so they needed to know what resources were available at certain times of the year for food, medicine, and other uses. Even today, many wild species are used personally and commercially for various purposes.

This research project gives you a chance to find a plant species that interests you and share your findings with others. We will compile a booklet that highlights the various species chosen with details about their uses. Your submission will be one of the pages in our “Wild Plant Survival Booklet.”

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO:

- 1) Pick a partner or choose to work alone (NO groups of 3 – don’t even ask!)
- 2) Pick a wild plant species that has been used for food, medicine, or other purposes by humans sometime historically or currently.
Here is a list of websites that might help with your initial choice for which plant to research:

Edible Wild Plants Index - <http://www.herbvideos.com/ewpindex.htm>

Common Plants of Wisconsin (not all will be edible, but this source gives a nice list to research from-

<http://www.uwsp.edu/biology/courses/plantid/cp-hires-main.htm>

Native Wisconsin Roadside species list (vast list, again not all listed are edible, but many to research & choose from)-

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/rdsduse/wi.htm>

- 3) Access the WILD PLANT document “template” via the Environmental Science website and save it to your user file.
<http://www.westallisccc.com/evs.html>
- 4) Fill in the necessary information on the document, print, and hand in.
The 1 page document is due no later than _____

(See the template on the back of this sheet to use as a guideline for your research)



Include one or more identification pictures in this area.



COMMON NAME OF PLANT

Scientific name

(please put any other known names for your plant here)

Description:

Here you need to explain the physical properties for identifying the species. If there are color, shape, structural, arrangement, texture, odor, or other distinguishing characteristics, please cover them in this section.

Habitat & range:

Here you need to explain where you can find the species (prairie, wetland, forest, etc.) and in what part of the United States is included in the range of the plant. If the plant can be found elsewhere in the world, you can mention that as well. You can paste a map here if you would like.

Time of year to find this species growing:

What season, month, or timeframe can you pick this plant to use for food, medicine, etc?

- Wisconsin Native Species
- Can be used for medicinal purposes
- Can be used for human consumption (food, drink, etc.)

Traditional and current uses for this species:

This is where you need to explain how this species has been and/or is currently used for something by humans. If there are multiple uses for the species to describe, include all relevant information in your explanation. Recipes, traditions, stories, folk lore, etc. can be incorporated into the explanation if applicable. This section will vary from one species to the next based on how extensively each has been utilized by humans. Make sure that your research is thorough and informative!