

QUALITY CONTROL:

Handling:

- Wash hands before harvesting or handling Bearberry.

Harvesting and processing:

- Harvesting Bearberry can be done as soon as the frost leaves the ground and the plant is recognizable.
- Leaves must be gathered only in fine weather, in the morning, after the dew has dried.

Drying process:

- Producer must have a drying shed or a place that can be inspected
- Spread Bearberry leaves on screens in layers that are 3—4 feet above the ground to ensure a current of air.
- Use a fan to move air around Bearberry
- Drying temperature should be from 70—100 degrees.
- Do not allow to get damp during drying process.

Storage Technique:

- Product should be stored in a wooden or tin boxes, in a dry place since they re-absorb moisture from the air.
- Dirty containers will not be accepted and the product in it maybe rejected
- Do not store in a shed that has been used for storing gas and oil.
- Dried Bearberry should be stored in a dry room away from moisture until it is ready to be transported to buying depot.

BUYING REQUIREMENTS (THIS IS INTENDED TO PROVIDE GENERAL STANDARDS. REQUIREMENTS MAY VARY FROM BUYER TO BUYER. PLEASE CONFIRM WITH YOUR BUYER BEFORE HARVESTING):

- Producers must have a wild harvesters association Membership Card.
- General harvest area.
- No foreign smell (ex: gas, oil)
- No foreign material (ex: Different kinds of bark, dirt, rocks)
- No mould.

All bags, boxes and containers may be inspected to determine if product meets a buyers specifications.

PRICING:

- Call NFDC prior to shipping or traveling to buying depot.



LOOK NORTH

15 Moak Crescent
Thompson, MB
R8N 2B8

Phone: 204-778-4138

Fax: 204-778-4313

Toll Free: 1-800-561-4315

NON-TIMBER FOREST PRODUCTS INFORMATION BROCHURE

(FROM HARVESTING
PRACTICES)



BEARBERRY



HARVESTING BEARBERRY

SCIENTIFIC NAME:

- *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*

CREE NAME:

- Kinnikinnick (mixture)

COMMON NAMES:

- Bearberry
- Kinnikinnick

PLANT SPECIES IDENTIFICATION:

Flowers

- Small 4-6 mm,
- White to pinkish
- Urn-shaped, small hanging clusters at end of branch tip

Fruit

- Dry and mealy
- Dull, orange-red
- Stone consist of several nutlets

Leaves

- Glossy, dark-green evergreen
- 1-2 cm long
- Leathery with smooth edges
- Spatula-shaped, widest at the tip

Plant Reproduction:

- Blooms May—June
- By seed or root stemming

Habitat:

- Dry forests
- Sand hills
- Rocky sites
- Roadsides
- Lakeshores

What is harvested:

- Leaf
- Berry

PRODUCT USES:

- Diuretic
- Persistent Cough
- Tobacco extender (mixed)
- Rich in carbohydrates
- Rich in tannin and arbutin

Aboriginal Uses:

- The Cree drank a tea to treat persistent coughs
- Northern Cree mixed the dried leaves with the bark of red-osier dogwood for tobacco extender.
- Cree used the leaves for tanning hides.
- Cree would mix the berries in fat or boiled them in soups.
- Cree also used the berries for adornment.

SPECIES SUSTAINABILITY:

Practice sustainable harvesting, by not over harvesting in one area.

HARVESTER CERTIFICATION:

- **NFDC** is working on providing organic certification on selective NTFP'S in each community harvest area.
- **Buyers may not purchase** Bearberry from producers who does not follow the **HARVESTERS CODE OF ETHICS (Copy available at the NFDC Centre).**