

## QUALITY CONTROL:

### Handling:

- Wash hands before harvesting or handling plants.

### Harvesting:

- Harvesting poplar buds should be done from march to the end of April or till the leaves start to sprout
- When harvesting do not pick the buds that are in cluster or we may not buy them
- Single buds only

### Drying process:

- Spread buds on screens in thin layers
- Room must have heat source to keep temperature at 90 to 100 degrees Fahrenheit
- Must have a dehumidifier
- Use a fan to move air around buds
- Drying process takes 2 to 3 weeks for buds to dry down to NFDC specifications

### Storage Technique:

- Product should be stored in a clean poly woven rice bag, paper bag, paper box, or clean container.
- Dirty containers will not be accepted and the product in it maybe rejected
- Store in a freezer on till you are ready to transport them to the buying depot
- Do not store in a shed that has been used for storing gas and oil.
- Dried Buds should be stored in a dry room away from moisture until they are 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):

- Green– Buds are bought in right off the tree
- Green buds weight anywhere from 25 to 30gr per 100 buds.
- Dried– Buds are dried down to 21gr per one hundred buds.
- 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**

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## NON-TIMBER FOREST PRODUCT INFORMATION BROCHURE

(FROM HARVESTING  
PRACTICES)



## BLACK POPLAR BUDS



## HARVESTING BLACK POPLAR BUDS

### SCIENTIFIC NAME:

- Populus balsamiferous L

### CREE NAME:

- Metos

### COMMON NAMES:

- Black poplar
- Balm of Gilead
- Balsam poplar
- Black cotton wood

### PLANT SPECIES IDENTIFICATION:

#### Flowers

- Sexes on separate trees
- Both in catkins
- Appear before leaves
- Female flowers have 2 stigmas
- Male flowers have 20-30 stamens

#### Leaves

- Thick
- Egg shaped to nearly lanced shaped
- 4-9 cm long
- Rounded to heart shaped at base
- Sharp pointed at tip
- Deep green above, pale or whitish below
- Edge finely round-toothed

#### Fruit

- 2-valved
- Smooth capsules
- Seeds small with tuft of cottony hair

#### Plant Reproduction:

- Sexually by seed
- Seed production begins about the 8th years, with a good crop every year
- Seeds remain viable 2-4 weeks but will germinate immediately following arrival on suitable seedbed
- Ability to produce sprouts from stumps and buried branches

#### Habitat:

- Most boreal forest sites, including river banks, stream, and lake shores, moist depressions, and swamps, but also some drier sites, common and wide spread across our region.

#### PRODUCT USES:

- Buds contain a waxy resin with disinfectant properties
- The buds contain salicin, a compound related to salicylic acid (The active ingredient in aspirin)
- The buds also contain an antioxidant which has been extracted in alcohol and added to cosmetics to prevent them from going rancid

#### Aboriginal Uses:

- The woods Cree put the sticky buds directly into there nostrils to stop bleeding.
- Made a tea to gargle for sore throats.
- A mixture of buds and inner bark was taken to prevent scurvy.
- The young bud can be held on a sore tooth to treat a toothache. This is a strong medicine that may cause the tooth to break and fall out.

#### SPECIES SUSTAINABILITY:

Practice sustainable harvesting, by not cutting the tree down to harvest the buds.

#### HARVESTER CERTIFICATION:

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