

QUALITY CONTROL:

Handling:

- Wash hands before harvesting or handling Chaga.

Harvesting and processing:

- Harvesting Chaga can be done all year long.

Drying process:

- Dry on screens or tarps in layers of 2—4 inches.
- Producer must have a drying shed or a place that can be inspected
- Store in shade to prevent heating while out harvesting
- Rinse and inspect for insects, then set to dry
- Use a fan to move air
- Once crispy dry, store in clean containers

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 dry room away from moisture
- Do not store in a shed that has been used for storing gas and oil.

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.



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NON-TIMBER FOREST PRODUCTS INFORMATION BROCHURE

(FROM HARVESTING
PRACTICES)



CHAGA



HARVESTING SWEETGRASS

SCIENTIFIC NAME:

- *Inonotus obliquus*

CREE NAME:

- Wisakeichak's ("scab")

COMMON NAMES:

- Tinder Fungus
- Chaga Mushroom

PLANT SPECIES IDENTIFICATION:

Fungus

- Irregular formed
- Hard black, appearance of burnt charcoal
- Deeply cracked, stalkless growth
- Rusty color on the underside

Habitat:

- Mushroom found growing on birch teas
- May be found on Maple, Elm, Mountain Ash and beech.

What is harvested:

- Fungus

PRODUCT USES:

- Teas
- Medicinals
- Ceremonial/Rituals

Aboriginal Uses:

- A decoction of the fungus can be drunk to treat heart conditions.
- Soak in water overnight and given to an underweight child to help gain weight.
- Woods Cree burnt pieces on the skin to produce a counter-irritation to treat arthritis.
- The rusty center of the fungus was dried and used as a "tinder".
- The tinder was also used as a smudge or incense..
- Commonly used for the treatments a number of conditions including cancer, gastritis and ulcers.

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** Chaga producers who does not follow the **HARVESTERS CODE OF ETHICS** (Copy available at the NFDC Centre).