

## QUALITY CONTROL:

### Handling:

- Wash hands before harvesting or handling fireweed.

### Harvesting:

- Harvesting fireweed can be done when the first two flowers have bloomed from the bottom up

### Drying process:

- Producer must have a drying shed or a place that can be inspected
- Once the flowers and the leaves have dried strip them off and then chop up the remaining stems to dry some more
- Room must have heat source
- Use a fan to move air around fireweed
- Drying process takes 2 to 3 days in a well ventilated dryer.

### 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
- Do not store in a shed that has been used for storing gas and oil.
- Dried fireweed 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):

- Fireweed must be brought in a clean container, paper bag, paper box or new poly-woven rice bag.
- Do not store Fireweed in a plastic bag.
- The vehicle will be inspected before we purchase your product.
- 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

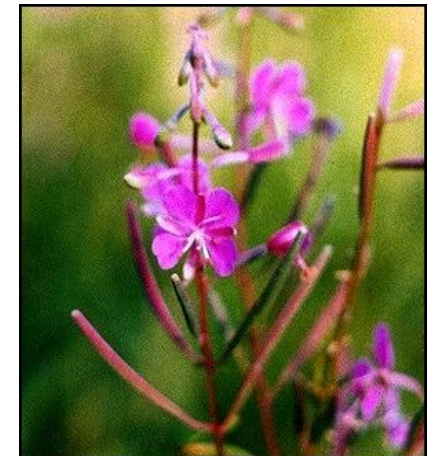
Phone: 204-778-4138  
Fax: 204-778-4313  
Toll Free: 1-800-561-4315

## NON-TIMBER FOREST PRODUCTS INFORMATION BROCHURE

(FROM HARVESTING  
PRACTICES)



## FIREWEED



# HARVESTING FIREWEED

## SCIENTIFIC NAME:

- *Epilobium angustifolium* L

## CREE NAME:

- Wickup, wickape, wicopy

## COMMON NAMES:

- Willow herb
- Blooming willow
- Purple rocket

## PLANT SPECIES IDENTIFICATION:

### Flowers

- 15 inch long clusters at stem tips
- Pink to purple (rarely white)
- 1.5 to 3.5 cm across
- 4 - petals
- Bract below each flower

(bract– A modified leaf that arises from the stem at the point where the flower cluster develops)

### Leaves

- Alternate, narrowly lanced-shaped,
- 5-15 cm long
- Slightly paler and veiny below

### Fruit

- Long and narrow seed pods (capsules), green to red 4-10 cm long
- Split lengthwise to release 100s of seeds with fluffy white tufts of hair

### Plant Reproduction:

- Blooms July to Sept
- By seed or Under ground network of rhizome

### Habitat:

- Open woods, burned over forests, waste grounds and roadsides
- Widespread and common across our region, north past the tree line to Arctic coast.

### What is harvested:

- The flowers, leaves, and stem

### **PRODUCT USES:**

- Can be used as a tea blend
- Can also used in a cream

### **Aboriginal Uses:**

- The Cree chewed the inner root or raw stems and used this as a poultice to draw out infection from boils, abscesses, and other wounds.
- The Chipewyan boiled fireweed plant to make a worm medicine
- Alaskan native peoples took fireweed tea to relieve stomachaches

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