

## 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.



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## 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

### Indigenous **Uses:**

- The Cree drink it as tea to treat persistent coughs.
- Northern Cree mix the dried leaves with the bark of red-osier dogwood for a tobacco extender.
- The Cree use the leaves for tanning hides.
- The Cree will mix the berries in fat or boil them in soups.
- The Cree also use 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).**