

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.



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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

Indigenous **Uses:**

- The Woods Cree put the sticky buds directly into their nostrils to stop bleeding.
- Make tea to gargle for sore throats.
- A mixture of buds and inner bark is 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).