

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

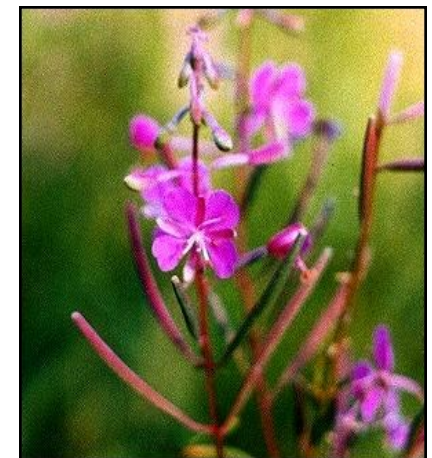
Phone: 204-778-4138
Fax: 204-778-4313
Toll Free: 1-800-561-4315

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

Indigenous **Uses:**

- The Cree chew the inner root or raw stems and use this as a poultice to draw out infection from boils, abscesses, and other wounds.
- The Chipewyan boil the fireweed plant to make a worm medicine
- Alaskan Native Peoples take fireweed tea to relieve stomach-aches

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).**