

QUALITY CONTROL:

Handling:

- Wash hands before harvesting or handling roots.

Harvesting:

- Harvesting senega root can be done as soon as the frost leaves the ground and the plant is recognizable
- The best quality senega root can be harvested in the fall

Drying process:

- Producer must have a drying shed or a place that can be inspected
- Spread senega root on screens in layers
- Room must have heat source
- Use a fan to move air around senega root
- Drying process takes 5 to 8 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 senega root 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):

- Green senega root– must be brought in a clean container, paper bag, paper box or new poly-woven rice bag.
- Do not store green or dry senega root in a plastic bag.
- 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 will be inspected to determine if product meets NFDC specifications.

PRICING:

- Call NFDC prior to shipping or traveling to buying depot.



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(FROM HARVESTING PRACTICES)

SENEGA SNAKEROOT



HARVESTING SENEGA SNAKERoot

SCIENTIFIC NAME:

- Polygala senega L

CREE NAME:

- Menisehkes, mesisikas, ominisihkes, sikotakanisikan

COMMON NAMES:

- Senega root
- Snake root

PLANT SPECIES IDENTIFICATION:

Flowers

- Greenish white flowers
4-5 mm wide
- The Flower is irregularly shaped with five sepals (sepals enclose the petals and other parts) The two inner ones are almost round and are larger than the rest.
- Three petals are joined at their base, the middle one of which is boat-shaped and has a fringed crest.

Leaves

- Fuzzy stems and alternate and oval leaves are small, lance-shaped with rough edges.

Plant Reproduction:

- An erect perennial herb growing from a thick rhizome up to 50 cm tall usually unbranched

Habitat:

- Fairly common in open dry woods
- Dry rocky and gravelly areas

What is harvested:

- The root and crown

PRODUCT USES:

- The root contains triterpenoid saponins, these promote the clearing of phlegm from bronchial tubes
- The root is used for respiratory problems
- To control bronchitis, bronchial asthma and whooping cough
- Can overdose, so care has to be taken on dosage

Indigenous **Uses:**

- The Cree chew the root for toothaches, sore throats and mouths, irregular heart beats, coughs, nervousness.
- A tea is made to gargle for sore throats.

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