# **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

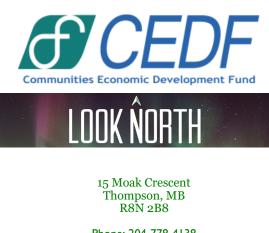
**BUYING REQUIREMENTS** (THIS IS INTENDED TO PROVIDE GENERAL STANDARDS. REQUIREMENTS MAY VARY FROM BUYER TO BUYER. PLEASE CON-FIRM WITH YOUR BUYER BEFORE HARVESTING):

- <u>Green senega root</u>– 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.



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





(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 there base, the middle one of which is boat-shaped and has a fringed crest.

#### Leaves

• Fuzzy stems and alternate and oval leaves are small, lanced shaped with rough edg-es.

#### 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

# Aboriginal Uses:

- The Cree chewed the root for toothaches, sore throats and mouths, irregular heart beats, coughs, nervousness.
- A tea was 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 HAR-VESTERS CODE OF ETHICS (Copy available at the NFDC Centre).