

Special Forest Products

Products from the Forests of the Pacific Northwest

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For many natural resource managers, forest owners, and educators, the forest has been seen mainly as a source of timber wood and fiber products. However, the growth of the commercial special forest products industry has changed this.

This commercial industry began by providing additional subsistence income; loggers and their families went in to the forest to gather non-timber products of the native forest. The products that support timber families in times of need are not much different than the ones that the native people of the Pacific Northwest used to provide food, shelter, clothing and spiritual products.

There are documented records of over 247 plants that the native peoples used. They took total advantage of the plants that grew on the forest floor, wetlands, forest canopy, and open prairies. In fact, they were more than casual users and miners of these native plants; they managed these plants and the environments they grew in.

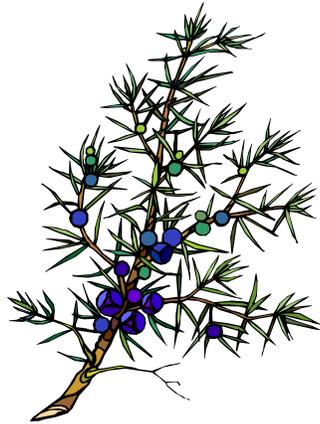
That intentional management of the environment to produce medicinals, edibles, craft, and spiritual materials was a major difference between the first peoples of the Pacific Northwest and the out-of-work loggers. Most of the early loggers took what nature gave them; however, some loggers were also special forest products managers. They would prune the trees, fertilize the brush, control the weeds, reforest with native plants, and use fire to restore the native plants. Some families, who have been in the business since the early 1930's, have intensely managed their valuable natural resources.

The native plants that provided the backbone of the early special forest products industry were:

- **Florals**—*Vaccinium ovatum* (evergreen huckle-berry), *Gaultheria shallon* (Salal), *Polystichum munifum* (SwordFern), *Mahonia spp.* (Oregon Grape Holly)
- **Medicinals**—*Cascara sagrada*, *Digitalis purpurea* (foxglove), *Achillea Millefolium* (yarrow), *Juniperus scopulorum* (Rocky Mountain Juniper), *Urtica lyallii* (Stinging Nettle), *Salix lasiandra* (Pacific Willow)
- **Edibles**—Evergreen huckleberry, Salal, Oregon Grape Holly, *Rubus leucodermis* (BlackRasp-berry), *Rubus*

Ursinus (trailing blackberry), *Rubus parviflorus* (Thimbleberry), *Rubus spectabilis* (Salmonberry)

- **Fungi**—*Morchella spa* (Morels), *Cantharellus cibarius* (yellow Chanterelle), *Cantharellus subalidus* (white Chanterelle), *Boletus edulis* (King bolete), *Lentinula edodes* (Shitake), *Matsutakes* (Pine Mushrooms), *Pleurotus ostreatus* (Oyster)
- **Christmas Greenery**—*Pseudotsuga menziesii* (Douglas Fir), *Abies amabilis* (Pacific Silver Fir), *Abies grandis* (Grand fir), *Pinus contorta* (shore pine), *Pinus monticola* (Western White Pine), *Thuja plicata* (Western Redcedar)
- **Christmas Trees**—Douglas Fir, Western White Pine, Grand Fir
- **Craft Materials**—Western Redcedar, *Alnus ruba* (Red Alder), *Prunus emarginata* (Bitter Cherry), Western Yew, *Salix lasiandra* (Pacific Willow), *Acer circinatum* (Vine Maple), *Cornus nuttallii* (Pacific Dogwood), *Mahonia* (Oregon Grape)
- **Art**—*Betula papyrifera* (paper birch), Pacific dogwood, *Samucus glauca* (Blue-berry Elder), *Arctostaphylos Uva-ursi* (Kinnikinnick), *Cornus stolonifera* (Red-osier dogwood) *Ledum goenladicum* (labordor tea), Oregon grape



occidentalis (Western Larch), *Pinus ponderosa* (Ponderosa Pine), *Chamaecyparis nootkatensis* (Yellow Cedar)

The special forest products industry continues to rely on all the native plants that supported the fearly commercial non-timber products industry and many more.

Some of the new plants that support new and existing industries are:

- **Florals**—*Xerophyllum tenax* (Bear-grass), *Passchistima myrsinities* (Oregon Boxwood), *Acer*

circinatum (Vine Maple), *Cornus stolonifera* (red-Osier Dogwood), *Ceanothus sanguineus* (Redstern Ceanothus), *Salix lucida* (Pacific Willow), *Cytisus scoparius* (Scotch Broom), *Spiraea douglasii* (Hardhack), *Holodiscus discolor* (Oceanspray), *Arctostaphylos Columbiana* (Hairy Manzanita), *Kalmia Microphylla* (Western Bog-Laurel), *Vaccinium parvifolium* (Red Huckleberry), *Arbutus menziesii* (Pacific Madrone), *Usnea longissima* (Methuselah's Beard Lichen), *Cladina portenosia* (Coastal Reindeer Lichen), *Ulota obtusiuscula* (Twisted Ulota Moss), *Isothecium myosuroides* (Cat-tail Moss), *Homalothecium fulgesces* (Yellow Moss), *Adiantum pedatum* (Maidenhair Fern), *Blechnum spicant* (Deer Fern), *Equisetum hyemale* (Scouring-Rush)

- **Medicinals**—Some examples of the more common plants of the over 172 plants used as medicinal: *Populus balsmifera* (Balsam Poplar), *Balsam orhiza sagittata* (Balsam Root), *Dicentra Formosa* (Bleedign Heart), *Vaccinium spp.* (Huckleberry), *Cornus Canadensis* (Bunchberry), *Umbellularia californica* (California Bay Laurel), *Oplopanax horridum* (Devil's Club), *Similaciana racemosa* (False Solomon's Seal), *Epilobium augustifolium* (Fireweed), *Ledum glandulosum* (Labrador Tea), *Polypodium glycyrrhiza* (Licorice Fern), *Arbutus Menziesii* (Madrone), *Urtica dioica* (Nettle), *Mahonia* (Oregon grape), *Anaphalis margaritacea* (Perly Everlasting), *Uva Ursi* (Kinnikinnick), *Valeriana dioica* (Valerian), *Petasites palmatus* (Western Coltsfoot), *Asarum caudatum* (Wild Ginger), *Chimaphila umbellate* (Prince's Pine), *Hypericum formosum* (St. John's-Wort), *Taxus bevfolia* (Pacific Yew)

- **Edibles**—*Typha latifolia* (Cat-tail), *Urtica species* (Nettle), *Oxyria digyna* (Mountain Sorrel), *Glycorrhiza lepidota* (Wild Licorice), *Montia perfoliata* (Miner's Lettuce), *Chenopodium album* (Lamb's Quarters), *Capsella bursa-pastoris* (Shepherd's Purse), *Vaccinium parvifolium* (Red Huckleberry), *Vaccinium Membranaceum* (Mountain Bilberry), *Smabucus cerulean* (Elderberry), *Rubus Chamaemorus* (Cloudberry), *Ponderosa* Pine Nuts, *Ribes Species* (Currant), *Gaultheria shallon* (Salal), *Pteridium aquilinum* (Bracken Fern), *Arctium minus* (Burdock), *Asarum caudatum* (Wild Ginger)

- **Fungi**—*Calvatia booniana* (Giant puff ball), *Coprinus cornatus* (Shaggy mane),



Lactarius fragilis (Candy caps), *Ramaria botrytis* (Coral pink), *Sparasis crispa* (Cauliflower mushroom), *Grifola frondosa* (Chicken of the woods), *Hericium erinaceus* (Hedgehog)

- **Christmas greenery**—Rocky Mountain juniper, *Abies Procera* (Noble Fir), *Pinus contorta latifolia* (Lodgepole pine), Incense Cedar, Port Orford Cedar, Costal Redwood, American Holly, Sugar Pine
- **Christmas trees**—Noble fir, Silver fir, Subalpine fir, Alpine Fir, Shasta fir, Coastal Redwood
- **Craft Materials**—Sugar pine cones, Stika Spruce cones, *Herbertus aduncus* (Common Scissor-Leaf liverwort), *Neckera douglasii* (Douglas' neckera moss), *Isothecium myosuroides* (Cat-Tail Moss), *Evernia prunastri* (Cantlered Perfume lichen), *Usnea longissima* (Methuselah's Beard), *Cladina portentosa* (Costal Reindeer moss), Western Yew, Western Red Cedar Bark, Vine Maple, Big leaf Maple shoots
- **Landscaping materials/plants**—Cedar stumps, moss, lichens, ferns, all native shrubs, all native wetland herbaceous plants, native flowers, all native trees, all native grasses

The markets for these plant materials are as varied as the plants that produce them. Some of the markets are as follows:

- Guided wild crafting tours for alternative health care doctors, chefs, floral designers, specialty foods users, wild crafters, land managers, naturalist and outdoor sports enthusiasts.
- Direct marketing of fresh and processed herb's, medicinals, edibles, crafts and native landscape plants. This can take the form of the farmer direct markets used by the horticulture industry. This is similar to roadside markets, high-stall farmer markets, home delivery and place of work delivery.
- Mail order and internet nature malls enable communities of producers from wide areas of the Pacific Northwest to join together to market like products.
- Classes and camps are now providing individuals with access to the specialty forest producers as well as receive training on how to best use the products from the forest. Some of the camps that have had success are: native basketry; working with natural dyes; home wine making; home beer making; specialty breads, pastries and deserts; native crafts holiday decorations; dried floral designs; using native herbs and vegetables with Pacific Northwest seafood meals.

- Wildlife and domestic pet food and health care products are a rapidly growing industry. The products range from native birdseed mixes to dog organic washes.
- Most major cities require that all new houses and developments be planted with low maintenance and low water use native plants. Major developers are looking at special forest products as a way to enhance the value of the natural green belts of large housing developments.

Along with this increased demand by local people through direct, specialty, and ethnic markets, the worldwide demand for specialty forest products is predicted to double in the next 10 years.

The specialty forest products from the Pacific Northwest are considered among the best in the world. This is primarily a result of the efforts to protect our environments from chemicals and over harvesting. The market places a high value on naturally produced products.

In the U.S., the Pacific Northwest is the leader in the production of specialty forest products. The world is the ultimate market place for over 79% of the products produced in the Pacific Northwest

It is this new world market combined with personal and local uses that will enable forestland managers/owners, in particular the private non-industrial sector, to manage for special forest products along with timber products.

Forest ecosystems that can produce, on a sustainable basis, plants that can be harvested to support the commercial and personal use special forest products industry.

As in the past, the major value of the special forest products from the native plants of the Pacific Northwest are their uses by individuals and families. Over 85,000 people enter the public forest each year to harvest plant materials for personal uses. Nearly half of the state's non-industrial private forestland owners have expressed interest in learning more about other products besides timber.

The actual commercial dollar value of the special forest products industry to the Pacific Northwest is in excess of \$190 million. It is estimated that the personal use sector exceeds the commercial value by 3 to 1.

The native plants of the forests of the Pacific Northwest are important commercially, and also to many people for cultural and personal uses.

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