

# \*BLUE RIDGE HARVEST CALENDAR\*

ILLUSTRATIONS BY AARON FLOYD



## HOW TO MAKE THIS CALENDAR:

1. PRINT THIS CALENDAR OUT

\*I LIKE TO USE CREAM COLORED CARD STOCK... NICE AND THICK

\*IF YOU HAVE A GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR PRINTER... TRY PRINTING FRONT & BACK TO SAVE SOME TREES...

2. CUT ALONG THIS LINE RIGHT HERE

3. PUNCH SOME HOLES AT THE TOP OF EACH PAGE

4. PUT THEM IN ORDER AND STRING THEM UP BY TYING A THIN STRING IN A LOOP... RED STRING LOOKS SNAZZY...

5. HANG 'ER UP AND TAKE SOME HARVEST NOTES!



## \*BLUE RIDGE HARVEST CALENDAR\*

THE GOAL OF THIS PROJECT IS TO CREATE A RESOURCE FOR OUR COMMUNITY TO CONNECT WITH OTHERS AND SHARE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR FORAGING AND HARVESTING ADVENTURES.

SPECIES OF FOCUS: WILD FRUITS, MUSHROOMS, NUTS, GREENS, GAME, CRAFTS MATERIALS, MEDICINALS, BUT ALSO CULTIVATED VARIETIES OF THESE PLANTS (NOT GARDEN VEGETABLE AND TIMBER PRODUCTS, BUT EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN IS FAIR GAME!)

### PROJECT DIRECTIONS:

1. NOTE THE FOLLOWING ON THIS CALENDAR:
  - SPECIES NAME (COMMON AND/OR SCIENTIFIC)
  - DATE OF HARVEST EVENT
  - TIMELINE OF HARVEST (TOO EARLY, PEAK, TOO LATE)
  - GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION (GENERAL OR SPECIFIC RELATIVE TO SENSITIVITIES)
  - ANY ADDITIONAL STORIES, DETAILS OF HABITAT, LOCATION, ETC.
2. PERIODICALLY OR AT THE TIME OF HARVEST, RECORD YOUR INFORMATION DIGITALLY INCLUDING PHOTOS AT: [HTTP://BLUERIDGEDISCOVERYCENTER.ORG/BLUE-RIDGE-HARVEST-CALENDAR](http://blueridgediscoverycenter.org/blue-ridge-harvest-calendar)
3. SUBSCRIBE TO THE CALENDAR FEED TO RECEIVE NOTIFICATIONS OF HARVESTS AND REMINDERS TO HEAD OUT INTO THE FIELD.
4. AT THE BEGINNING OF NEXT YEAR PICK UP YOUR NEW AND COMMUNITY UPDATED CALENDAR!

\*IT IS THE INDIVIDUAL'S PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY TO BEHAVE ETHICALLY AND SAFELY WHILE HARVESTING. THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF SUGGESTIONS AND GUIDELINES.

### ETHICS:

1. RESPECT PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROPERTIES BY FIRST OBTAINING PROPER PERMISSION.
2. KNOW THE LOCAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS REGARDING HARVEST OF RARE OR PROTECTED SPECIES.
3. DON'T OVER HARVEST! EXCEPTIONS MAY APPLY TO INVASIVE SPECIES, SUCH AS AUTUMN OLIVE (*ELAEAGNUS UMBELLATE*).
4. HARVEST NATIVE SLOW GROWING ROOT CROPS JUDICIOUSLY, (NO MORE THAN 1/3 OF THE POPULATION), SO THE STAND CAN REGENERATE AFTER HARVESTING.
5. LEAVE SOME NUTS AND BERRIES FOR WILDLIFE AND OTHER FORAGERS.
6. LEAVE NO TRACE...PACK OUT WHAT YOU PACK IN.
7. TREAD LIGHTLY...RESPECT ALL ASPECTS OF THE HABITAT.

### SAFETY:

1. ONLY HARVEST SPECIES THAT YOU ARE 100% CONFIDENT CAN BE POSITIVELY IDENTIFIED.
2. AS A BEGINNING LEARNER, A GOOD TEACHER IS ESSENTIAL. TAKE ADVANTAGE OF LOCAL EXPERTS.
3. USE THE SCIENTIFIC NAMES OF THE SPECIES YOU ARE IDENTIFYING WHEN YOU CAN. COMMON NAMES ARE OFTEN UNRELIABLE AND LOCAL.
4. CONSIDER THE ECOSYSTEM AND PLANT COMMUNITIES THAT SUPPORT WHAT AND WHERE YOU ARE HARVESTING. THIS INFORMATION ADDS TO POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION.
5. DO NOT HARVEST FROM AREAS THAT YOU EXPECT TO BE CONTAMINATED OR POLLUTED (IE: ROADSIDES).
6. ONLY HARVEST SPECIES THAT APPEAR TO BE HEALTHY.
7. EXERCISE CAUTION. HAVE POISON HOTLINE INFORMATION ON HAND.











