



# Wildcrafting *Ethical* *Harvesting in the Wild*

## Botanical Extract Ingredients

**Draco Natural Products** is the world leader in the raw material manufacture and supply of **Full Spectrum Standardized Herbal Extracts™**, standardized to recognized markers and giving you the full range of plant constituents in the balanced proportions that nature intended.

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In the process of producing superior quality herbal extracts, Draco Natural Products is careful to use raw plant material from the very best sources. We have close relationships with all of our growers and wildcrafters. For certain species, especially those with high demand and limited natural supply, the material is cultivated. But we pride ourselves on offering a wide variety of products, many of which are abundant in nature, making cultivation unnecessary, or which resist effective cultivation. For these plants, we practice ethical wildcrafting.

Wildcrafting is the gathering of plant material from its native “wild environment”. Whenever possible, Draco Natural Products prefers to use wildcrafted plant material over cultivated. More than 70% of our products are manufactured from wildcrafted plant material. In Traditional

Chinese Medicine, herbs that have been wildcrafted are revered for their superior healing properties. It is believed that wildcrafted plants are more strongly imbued with the power of nature and can be more effective agents for promoting health. Science confirms this belief for many plant species. Put simply, when a plant has to contend with the vagaries of living in the

wild, the effort expended for survival is greater than for those plants pampered in cultivation. When a plant has to strive to survive, it adapts, producing a greater abundance of chemical constituents that enable such survival. These chemicals are often the same ones that also enable humans to thrive better as well.

Draco Natural Products follows strict but simple guidelines for ethical wildcrafting to ensure that products made from wildcrafted plant material are clean, pure, and environmentally sound. We feel strongly that, in providing our customers with the



highest quality extract, is our duty to honor the natural processes that produce great raw plant material, and respect the environment from which it springs.

Draco’s Considerations for Ethical Wildcrafting:

1. Before gathering any plant mate-



## Wildcrafting - *continued*

rial, we carefully study the habitat of the plant. We take care not to wildcraft in areas that may be affected by pollution, such as roadsides near car exhaust, urban areas, drainage ditches, animal farms, mines or dumps. We look for areas that are isolated and pristine.

2. We look for healthy plants that free from disease or infestation.
3. We strive for zero waste. We take only as many plants as we can use in production.
4. We are careful to leave mature



seed-producing plants behind to reproduce. If possible, the spot from which the plant is removed is reseeded. We never harvest more than 1/3 of an individual stand of plants. The harvest is often less than 1% of the available stand in a given area, even when it is a truck full of material.

5. Draco always approaches natural ecosystems with respect, giving consideration to animals and insects that may depend on the plants, but that also help with pollination and seed distribution.
6. We are always sensitive to the plants that surround the wild-

crafting activity, ensuring that endangered plants are not taken, and that all of the harvest is the proper species and not mixed with other species.

7. We are careful to minimize impact on the local ecosystem, treading lightly off-road, cleaning up the area, and filling in holes as needed.
8. In order to ensure sustainable growth from year to year we use the following harvest times: **Roots** in early spring prior to new growth or fall after seeding; **Barks** in the spring or fall when they easily peel off the tree; Bark is taken in strips up and down; **Fruits and Berries** when fully ripe; **Leaves and Stems** prior to flowering; and **Sap** in late winter or very early spring. In considering harvest timing, we always take into consideration the optimal timing of harvest for each herb, collecting it when its active constituents are at their peak.
9. Special care is taken with washing, cleaning, and packaging the plant material for transit and storage from the field, to ensure the highest level of quality going into the extraction process.
10. We consider our ongoing relationship with the natural bounty of the land to be stewardship, a process of taking care of the earth so that we can receive its gifts in continuity and without degradation. We actively monitor our wildcrafting stands over multiple years to ensure the survival and ecological balance of the stand.
11. Most importantly Draco regards wildcrafting as a spiritual activity: We conduct ourselves with a high level of consciousness for the well being of this living planet that we are all a part of.

**Over 500 Full Spectrum Standardized Herbal Extracts™ and Action Synergized Formulas™ are available. If the product you are looking is not listed here, please call us! We may have it.**