

**On-Line Survey of Foragers**  
(will be 508 compliant)

**Online Survey Introduction**

Welcome to the foraging survey!

The purpose of our study is to understand foraging and investigate its significance for foragers and their families, as well as potential risks and benefits of foraging. Our goal is to provide information in support of sustainable forest and other natural resource management that delivers multiple benefits to you – the citizens who rely on these natural areas.

We use the term “forage” to include gathering plants or mushrooms (for example, leaves, nuts, roots, fruits, or flowers) from public or private areas (for example, parks, lawns, or along sidewalks).

For purposes of this study, foraging does not include:

- collecting discarded food or food that was at any time intended for sale, such as from dumpsters or farmers’ market discards.
- harvesting materials you deliberately planted and grew for yourself (e.g., from your garden),
- harvesting materials clearly planted and reserved for consumption by another person, such as produce from someone else’s farm or garden plot.

Harvesting from privately-owned fruit trees is considered foraging if:

- (a) the branches extend over public land,
- (b) the fruit is past the point of ripeness and the owner has made no effort to harvest them, and/or
- (c) the owner has given explicit permission for the trees to be available for public foraging.

**ELIGIBILITY**

If you think you might be interested in participating, please proceed.

To be eligible for the study, you must meet two criteria:

Are you at least 18 years of age?

Yes  No

Have you foraged plants and/or mushrooms (in a city) for food, medicine, or other purposes at least once in the past five years?

Yes  No

*If respondent does not meet both criteria:*

Unfortunately, you are not eligible to participate, but we appreciate your interest. Please feel free to share our contact information with other foragers who might be interested in participating.

*If respondent meets both criteria:*

Great! Before we begin the survey, let’s go over some information.

You are being asked to join a research study. If you agree to be in this study, you will be asked a series of questions that should take roughly 30 minutes to complete. At any point, you can decline to answer any question, or stop the survey altogether.

Your answers will be kept anonymous; we will not include your internet provider or other personal identification information in our analyses. The information you share may be published in reports and research papers, but your answers will not be reported separately and you will not be identified individually in any way.

### **RISKS**

The risks to being a part of this study are minimal. If at any point you are uncomfortable, you can skip any question you want or stop the survey at any time.

### **VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION**

You do not have to agree to be in this study, and you may change your mind at any time.

Contact *insert name of individual or organization here* at *insert contact information here* if you have questions or complaints about being in this study.

Let's get started!

## Foraging Experience

For about how many years have you been foraging?

- 1-2
- 2-3
- 3-4
- 4-5
- 5-10
- 10-20
- 20-30
- 30-40
- >40

How or from whom did you **first** learn about foraging? Select all that apply:

- Books
- Internet
- Friends
- Family
- Other foragers
- Foraging events (e.g., walks or workshops)
- Foraging Meetup group
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Where do you get information about foraging? Select all that apply:

- Books
- Internet
- Friends
- Family
- Other foragers
- Foraging events (e.g., walks or workshops)
- Foraging Meetup group
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- I don't seek out information about foraging

With whom do you forage? Please select all that apply.

- I usually forage alone
- Family members
- Friends, who I spend time with outside of foraging
- Other foragers, whom I only see when foraging
- Professional foragers
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you forage with children under age 18?

- No
- Yes

Have you ever done any of the following in areas where you forage?

- Replant/spread seeds
  - Clear brush/undergrowth
  - Clear trees/shrubs
  - Fertilize, water, or use other conventional landscaping techniques
  - "Fence" areas
  - Other (please specify):
- 
- 

## Foraged Species

The following questions pertain to a typical year. Even though it is now (spring/summer/fall/winter), we are interested in your foraging behaviors during all four seasons.

Please list *up to 10* plants or mushrooms that you forage most frequently (either the common or scientific name is fine). For each species, we will go over a series of more detailed questions.

*Survey administrator or software will repeat this question cycle up to 9 times, for a total of 10 plant or mushroom species. If this is online, there will be an option to say "that's it, no more species" rather than click through all 10 cycles if they only gather 3 species.*

1. \_\_\_\_\_

Which part(s) do you collect? Please select all that apply.

- Whole Plant or Mushroom
- Berries/fruits
- Roots
- Leaves
- Branches
- Flowers
- Nuts
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

How do you harvest this species? Please select all that apply.

- Hand pulling or picking
- Cutting or clipping
- Digging
- Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_
- Not sure

How would you best describe the land where you harvest this species? Please select all that apply.

- Field or meadow
- Forest
- Industrial
- Institutional (e.g., hospital grounds, business or school campus)
- Park
- Residential
- Roadway
- Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_
- Not sure or would rather not say

How do you use foraged materials? Please select all that apply.

- Art or craft material
- Beverage
- Cosmetic
- Floral use
- Food
- Medicine/health support
- Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

When do you forage for this species? Please select all that apply.

- January
- February
- March
- April
- May
- June
- July
- August
- September
- October
- November
- December

During its season, how often do you forage for this species?

- Every day
- Several times per week
- Several times per month
- Occasionally
- Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

About how much of this species do you collect on each outing? (Please see foraging quantity visual aids below for rough guidelines.)

- ½ cup
- 1 cup (½ pint)
- 2 cups (1 pint)
- 4 cups (1 quart)
- 8 cups (2 quarts or ½ gallon)

SAMPLE

**1/2  
cup**



**1  
cup  
1/2  
pint**



**2  
cup  
s  
1  
pint**



**4  
cup  
s  
1  
qua  
rt**



About 1/4  
of a



**8  
cup  
s  
2  
qua  
rts  
1/2  
gall  
on**



About  
half of a

How much of what you collect do you typically use yourself?

- All or almost all of it
- About three quarters
- About half
- About one quarter
- None of it

If not all of it, what do you do with the rest of it? Select all that apply:

- Shared or given as gifts
- Traded or bartered
- Sold
- Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

If applicable, where or to whom do you sell it?

- Farmers market
- Restaurant
- Grocery or health food store
- Floral market
- Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

## Motivations for Foraging

What are the reasons why you forage? Please rate each one from 0 to 5, with 0 being not at all important and 5 being very important. You may use each number as often as you wish (that is, if two reasons are somewhat important, you may give them both a "1").

Reason	Importance (0, 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5; 0 = not at all important; 5 = very important)
1. Connections to Nature	_____
2. Family or cultural tradition	_____
3. Flavors or other special properties	_____
4. Free food or other materials	_____
5. Health	_____
6. Income	_____
7. Other (please specify):	_____



## Barriers to Foraging

Do you face any challenges or problems to foraging? Please rate each one from 0 to 5, with 1 being not at all important and 5 being very important. You may use each number as often as you wish (that is, if two or more reasons are somewhat important, you may give them both a “1”).

Reason	Importance (0, 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5; 0 = not at all important; 5 = very important)
1. Time, lack of	_____
2. Knowledge, lack of	_____
3. Contamination concerns	_____
4. Other (please specify):	_____

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The potential for overharvesting or negative health effects from plants or mushrooms that grew in contaminated environments are common concerns related to foraging. Below, please tell us how much you agree or disagree that the following are trustworthy sources of information about each of these issues.

### Overharvesting

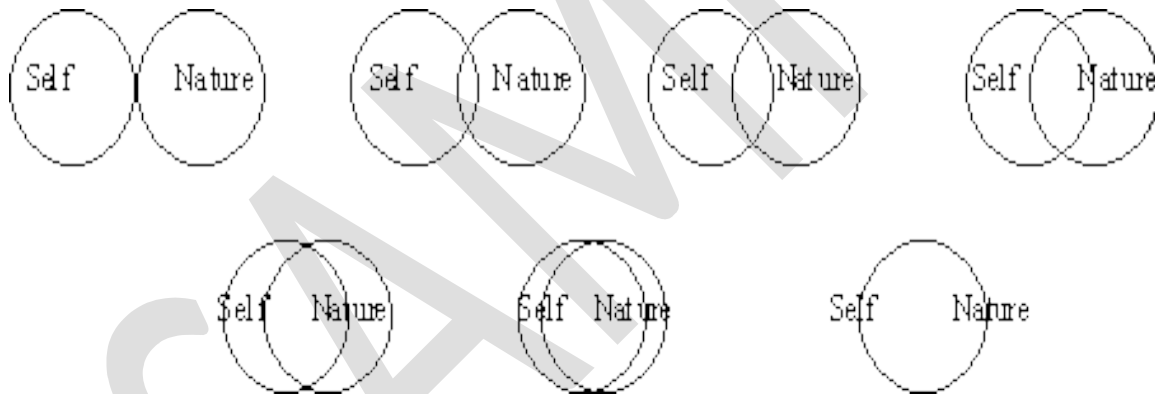
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Disagree nor Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree	I am not familiar/do not know
Other foragers						
Family						
Close friends						
US Forest Service						
State DNR						
Local NGO, like the Nature Conservancy						
Local faith-based organizations (like my church or temple)						
Local cultural group (like an immigrant group)						

>>note: the groups will be specific to the context of the survey. For example, were this to be done in the Chicago area, an NGO may be Chicago Wilderness while a local faith based organization could be God’s Gang, and NGO active in environmental issues relevant to African Americans.

Health implications

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Disagree nor Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree	I am not familiar/do not know
Other foragers						
Family						
Close friends						
US Forest Service						
State DNR						
Local NGO, like the Nature Conservancy						
Local faith-based organizations (like my church or temple)						
Local cultural group (like an immigrant group)						

Please circle the picture below which best describes your relationship with the natural environment. How interconnected are you with nature?



**Demographic Information**

We'd like to ask you some questions about where you live, your age, race, ethnicity, income, and level of education. This information helps us identify populations for whom certain foraged foods, foraging locations, or foraging in general are particularly important. This information also helps us design outreach materials, for example, by translating them to the appropriate languages. If for any reason you don't feel comfortable answering any of these questions, you can decline to answer.

What is your zip code? \_\_\_\_\_

Would rather not say

In what country were you born? \_\_\_\_\_

Would rather not say

What language(s) are spoken in your home?

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Would rather not say

Do you consider yourself to be Hispanic, Latino, or of Spanish origin?

- No  
 Yes

*If yes:* Where do your ancestors come from? Please select all that apply:

- Mexico  
 Puerto Rico  
 Cuba  
 Central America  
 South America  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Don't know  
 Would rather not say

What race or races do you consider yourself to be? Select all that apply:

- American Indian or Alaska Native  
 Asian  
 Black or African American  
 Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander  
 White  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Don't know  
 Would rather not say

*If Asian:* Where do your ancestors come from? *Select all that apply.*

- Korea  
 China  
 Japan  
 India  
 Pakistan  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Don't know  
 Would rather not say

What year were you born? \_\_\_\_\_

- Would rather not say

How do you identify your gender?

- Male  
 Female  
 Transgender/Other  
 Would rather not say

What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- Less than high school  
 High school, GED, or equivalent  
 Some college  
 Associate's degree  
 Bachelor's degree  
 Graduate degree  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Would rather not say

What is your household's annual income?

- <\$20,000  
 \$20,000-\$39,999  
 \$40,000-\$59,999  
 \$60,000-\$79,999  
 \$80,000-\$99,999  
 \$100,000-\$150,000  
 Over \$150,000  
 Would rather not say

**Thank you for your time and input on this study. We greatly appreciate it. Your information will help us serve you, and other foragers, better.**