



PLANTING THE FUTURE

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United Plant Savers is a non-profit, grassroots membership organization dedicated to the conservation and cultivation of at-risk medicinal plants. An organization for herbalists and people who love plants, our purpose is to ensure the future of our rich diversity of medicinal plants.

These are exciting times for herbalists. The current “herbal renaissance” in American health care is accompanied by an ever-growing demand by the public for herbs and herbal products. While positive on the one hand, this situation has engendered a unique new set of problems for the wild plant world and for herbalists who love plants.

The pressure on our wild medicinal plant communities is growing yearly. Vast numbers of plants have been and continue to be taken and indiscriminate wild-harvesting, defoliation, and urbanization have devastated many areas of former abundance. Perhaps even more disturbing, native North American medicinal plants are being exported to meet the demand in other countries where wild plants have already been gravely depleted.

United Plant Savers was formed in the spirit of hope, by a group of herbalists committed to protecting and re-planting at-risk species and to raising public awareness of the plight of our wild medicinal plants. Our membership reflects the great diversity of American herbalism and includes wildcrafters, seed collectors, herbal product manufacturers, growers, farmers, botanists, practitioners, medicine makers, educators, and plant lovers from all walks of life.

United Plant Savers mission is to protect and propagate at-risk native medicinal plants. We recognize that environmentally responsible cultivation, land stewardship, habitat protection, and sustainable wild harvesting are of critical importance to ensure an abundant renewable supply of medicinal plants for future generations. Our work includes:

- Identifying the at-risk medicinal plant species.
- Researching cultivation and propagation techniques of at-risk plants.
- Securing and operating botanical sanctuaries, places to learn about at-risk medicinals, places that act as seed and plant material repositories and places to carry on research into sustainable cultivation.
- Replanting and restoring at-risk medicinal plants by grassroots efforts.
- Consulting with those growing and harvesting medicinal herbs concerning sustainable land practices.
- Raising public awareness of the current plight of medicinal herbs.
- Working with the natural product industry to bring awareness to all concerned.
- Networking with other green organizations to discover our common ground

- Echinacea (*Echinacea* spp.)
- Eyebright (*Euphrasia* spp.)
- Goldenseal (*Hydrastis canadensis*)
- Helonias Root (*Chamaelirium luteum*)
- Kava kava (*Piper methysticum*)
- Lady's Slipper Orchid (*Cypripedium* spp.)
- Osha (*Ligusticum porteri* spp.)
- Slippery Elm (*Ulmus rubra*)
- Sundew (*Drosera* spp.)
- Trillium, Beth Root (*Trillium* spp.)
- True Unicorn Root (*Aletris farinosa*)
- Venus Fly Trap (*Dionaea muscipula*)
- Virginia Snakeroot (*Aristolochia serpentaria*)
- Wild Yam (*Dioscorea villosa* spp.)

In addition, there are many species, widely used in commerce, which are abundant in one bioregion and scarce in others. United Plant Savers is watching these plants and collecting information on levels of commercial usage while monitoring the viability of these plants within their current range.

Please join us in our work. For information regarding membership and for sources that carry at-risk plants and their seed, please contact us at our website: www.plantsavers.org or write us at: P.O. Box 98, East Barre, VT 05649

AT-RISK INDIGENOUS PLANTS;

- American Ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*)
- Black Cohosh (*Cimicifuga racemosa*)
- Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*)
- Blue Cohosh (*Caulophyllum thalictroides*)
- Cactus grandiflorus (*Selenicereus grandiflorus*)