

NATIVE AMERICAN PLANT/TREE MATERIAL COLLECTION FOR MEDICINAL OR CEREMONIAL PURPOSE ON INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES PROPERTY

Collection Permit Overview

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources (“DNR”) offers a permit for Native Americans residing in Indiana to collect limited amounts of plant and tree material for personal – non-commercial – medicinal or ceremonial purposes on DNR properties. Native American Plant/Tree Material Specimen Collection Permits (“Collection Permit”) require submission and approval of a detailed proposal, which is outlined below. This Collection Permit and proposal process is similar to the Research/Collecting Permit for scientific purposes required by 312 Ind. Admin. Code § 8-2-10.

An approved Collection Permit may allow collection of plant/tree material from any permittee-requested DNR property, e.g., State Forest, Fish and Wildlife Area, or State Park. However, based on the intricacies of what plant/tree material is desired in the Collection Permit proposal, the DNR may modify the requested area to a less sensitive DNR property in order to better preserve and protect the requested plant/tree material. It is important to keep in mind that many forest-growing perennial plants are slow growing and extremely vulnerable to overharvest.

A comprehensive Collection Permit proposal must be submitted by December 31 of the year preceding the proposed collection year/timeframe. A Collection Permit proposal requesting more impactful collection – e.g., tree cutting – or involving a more sensitive area – e.g., Nature Preserve – may require additional review time. A Collection Permit proposal may be denied by the DNR.

A DNR Property Manager or designee will escort and guide the permittee throughout the onsite collection process to ensure specimens are collected from approved areas of DNR property. Further, on DNR properties where the public is required to stay on official DNR trails, permittee is not permitted to “scout” potential collection areas without a DNR Property Manager or designee escort, unless areas are visible from an official DNR trail.

Plant/tree material collected under a Collection Permit is solely for the personal, non-commercial use of the permittee. The permittee shall not sell, barter, or exchange, offer to sell, barter, or exchange, or purchase or offer to purchase any plant/tree material collected under a Collection Permit.

Collection Permit Proposal Requirements

Collection Permit proposal must include the following:

1. Permittee’s contact information

- Name, home address, phone number, and e-mail

2. Proof of Native American heritage

- E.g., photocopy of permittee's tribal identification card from a federally recognized tribe; Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB); or tribal affiliation and enrollment documentation

3. Proof of Indiana Residency

- E.g., photocopy of permittee's driver's license or other state identification indicating Indiana residency

4. Specific species and part of plant or tree material for collection

- E.g., White Trillium – roots; or Jewelweed – stems and roots

5. Detailed quantities of each plant or tree material

- Note: To ensure proposed collection is sensible and not damaging to sensitive areas, DNR may limit collection to a specific percentage of a micro ecosystem.
- E.g., Jewelweed – stems and roots – 6 oz. total

6. Planned use for each collected plant or tree material

- E.g., Jewelweed – medicinal purposes

7. Method of harvest for each collected plant or tree material

- E.g., Jewelweed – dig up roots with small trowel

8. Timeframe for harvest for each collected plant or tree material

- Note: A DNR Property Manager or designee is required to escort permittee throughout the collection process. Collection Permits are granted for a specific timeframe so that the permittee and a DNR property manager or designee may work together to find an amenable date and time for collection within that timeframe. The application should, however, designate a timeframe within which the desired collections should occur.
- E.g., Jewelweed – third or fourth week of June [of the following year].

9. DNR property for collection of each plant or tree material

- Note: As stated in the above Collection Permit Overview, permittee-requested property may not be appropriate for collection of requested specimen. DNR will work with permittee to determine an appropriate property for collection.
- E.g., Jewelweed – Salamonie River State Forest

Collection Permit proposals and questions should be directed to:

Elizabeth A. Gamboa
Legal Counsel
Department of Natural Resources
402 W. Washington St., Rm. W295
Indianapolis, IN 46204
317-232-4137
egamboa@dnr.in.gov