

Ła dm Sitaa'ma

Getting Started

T'ooxłgm hałsa sihat'al ada 'naga waalm ła dp gwildm gawnt, da'ap aam la hawn ła gawdiim.

Gathering cedar for a basket is hard work and takes a lot preparation, but it is worth it in the end.

Dziła sit'aa'ma suwilaawksn, sgüü mdm sagayt doo hawila'wan.

As you begin learning, you will need to collect a few important tools.

Gup'l wil liksgyeda hawila'wa dm hasagn, k'üül da sihat'al ada k'üül da sits'illaa.

You will have two sets of tools, one for harvesting and one for weaving.

Gyiloodza luwantga goodn!

But don't worry!

Dm mełdm goo dm hasagn!

We'll tell you what you need!



Jamie Thompson pulling the first strip of red cedar under the guidance of Delores Churchill.

Hawila'wam Sihat'al

Harvesting Tools

Goldzax gwe'el - 'Naga dm gyaawksn 'nii gan aam mdm txayaagwa goldzax gwe'el dm wil ludoo hawila'wah ada aks ada goo dm gabn.

Backpack - You're going to be gone for a while as you harvest cedar, so a backpack is ideal for carrying your tools, water, and snacks.

Hałabiisk - Hałabiisga hoyn łam sak'odza hat'al da gan ada dm sak'odza maas da hat'al.

Knife - A butcher or slimming knife is used to cut your strip of bark from the tree and to cut off outer bark.

Gigyootk - Gyigootga dm hoyn dm sa geemgn maas da gan.

Hatchet - Hatchets are used to pry the bark away from the trunk of the tree.

T'u'utsgm gwe'al'm salee - T'u'utsgm gwe'al'm salee dm hoyn dm gyilksdoga hat'al ła gawdim sak'odza maas. Sgüü mdm ludoo hat'al da gwe'al'm salee dm wil 'wah luunkst.

Black garbage bag (unscented) - Garbage bags are used to carry your bark back home after you've removed the outer bark. Keeping your bark in a garbage bag stops it from drying out.

Hagwilhuu - Dm luunda ts'iibn na hat'aln a hagwilhuu. Da'axłgn mdm hoy hagwilhuu dm tgise'ika hat'al da lax gan.

Rope - You can tie your rolls of cedar with the rope. You can also use it to help pull off a strip of cedar that may get stuck high up the tree.

Xbiism haldaaks - Aam dm txayaagwa xbiism haldaaks dzida sa sgaayksn. Aam dm ławila holtga na xbiism haldaaksn!

First aid kit - Accidents happen, it's always good to take a first aid kit with you into the forest. Make sure your 1st aid kit is always well stocked!

Hawila'wam Sits'illaa

Weaving Tools

Galdm aks - Dm hoyn galdm aks dm wil lullooksa huu ada liiti. Sgüü dm hoyaga dm gasgaaw galdm aks ada dm holtga galdm aks dm wil lullooksa huu.

Container - Containers are for water to soak your warps and wefts. Make sure your container is large enough for your cedar to soak and the warps of your basket to be submerged.

Haksibuu aks - Dm hoyn haksibuu aks dm wil 'wah gangoo mdm lullooksa da aks.

Squirt Bottle - Use your squirt bottles to keep your project moist without having to resoak the entire basket.

Gwatgm aks - Ksigwanksm aksa aamt, dzidam 'wah da'axlga, gwatgm aks dm hoyn dm lullooksn hat'al.

Cold water - Rainwater is ideal, but if you cannot collect your own, cold water works for soaking your bark.

Hagagaytk - Dm hoyn hagagaytk dm sak'osk'odza huu ada liiti dm wil hoyaga gasgawt, ada mdm sak'osk'odza na ts'uwaan su liiti.

Scissors - Scissors are used to cut your warps and wefts to the size of your basket, and to cut off the ends from the new wefts you add.

Hadap'a - Dm hoyn hadap'a mdm daba huu dm wil sagayt k'üült, ada dm wil aats'iga nfüüt.

Ruler - Use a ruler to measure the warps to the same size and for keeping your plaited bottoms straight.

Ts'uusgm hałabiisk - Dm hoyn ts'uusgm hałabiisk dm basagn hat'al, sahani hat'aln, ada mdm gwildm ga'wn kyoox ada demtii.

Paring knife - Paring knives are used for splitting your bark in two, thinning the bark, and preparing your grass and ferns for false embroidery.

'Lag - Dm hoyn 'lag dm luupga huu ligi liiti guu na ksidaawłt a ts'illaa, ada dm tgiluupga liiti ła gawdiit. (Da'axlga dm hooks 'lag ada seeyb dm basagan hat'al.)

Blunt needle - Needles are used to help sew in a warp or weft that may have been pulled out of the basket, and for sewing a weft down at the end of a basket. (A needle or bone awl can also be used to split bark.)

Seeyb - Dm hoyn seeyb mdm tgit'ist'uusa liiti. Dzida 'wah sgüü seeyb da k'wan, dm hoyn 'lagn ada mdm sm amaniist.

Bone - A deer bone is used toawl the weaving tight after every row. If you do not have a bone, you can use your blunt needle very carefully.

Hagyiimk'ontk - Bubuu aks ła sits'ilaan ada łam sihani hat'al.

Hand towel - There are going to be spills while weaving and as you thin your bark.

Tsiliinaḵ - Dm hoyn ts'ifinaḵ dm wil 'wah ts'a'at'iks na hoyan.

Apron - An apron will keep your clothes clean.

Hoy'yagansk - Dm hoyn hoy'yagansk dm wil hoyaga gasgaw ts'ilaan.

Mold (thing to copy) - Using a mold will keep the shape of your basket.

Hak'otsliiti - Dm hoyn hak'otsliiti mdm k'osḵ'odza huu ada liiti dm wil sagayt k'üül dm sgadipduut.

Jerry stripper - Jerry strippers cut your warps and wefts to the exact same width to make your basket as even as possible.

Weaving Vocabulary

'lii – over

'yuusl, yikyuusl (plural) -

large berry picking basket

beexl - strip (from the tree)

dab – measure

damxk – tight

daxyaagw – hold

demtii - maidenhair fern

duutg, dikduutk (plural) -

large cedar basket

gaapxgn - scrape

(with fingernail)

gatgyatk – force

gawdii - finish

gog, gok -

small berry basket

gooyx - to finish

gup'l - double (two)

gwildm ga'wn - prepare

(make ready)

gwilt'akyl - basic twine

hani – thin

hat'al - inner bark

huu – weft

k'ay – bite

k'odz - cut

k'üül - single (one)

kwduun, 'nastoo – sides

kwilii - triple (three)

kyoox - (canary) grass

la'kwil – wrap

lalb - scrape (with a knife)

liisk - finish off

liiti – warp

lullooksn - to soak

lüü – under

luupk - embroider (sew)

maas - cedar bark,

outer bark

mangaa - lift, pick up

nis'yaan - bottom

sek'y – pull

sisgan - plaiting

(horizontal weave)

sits'ilaan - to weave a basket

smgan - red cedar

spagayt gangan, gyilhawlii –

forest

t'al - split bark

ta'kyl - twist, crease, fold

tgise'ik - pull down

tgudzox - edge

tguya'n - turn

ts'ilaan - large basket

tsilim t'uus - tuck

(push in, back)

wal - yellow cedar

xbik'odz - cut in half

xts'ii - thick

yaaka gwilt'akyl -

chasing weave

Gyigiingwaxłm Smg̃an

Cedar Prayer by Holly Churchill

Nt'oyaxsn, Wii Sm'ooygidm Smg̃an.

Thank you Great Spirit of the sacred red cedar.

G̃atgoytiksi'nm a gwa'a dip dm wil lułootgis 'nüün a liksgyedm ligi goo,

We are here to transform you into something new,

Anooldn dip dm wil gaadn dawila sag̃ayt lułootgm adam dimootga na diduulsm.

Grant us yourself that we as one will be transformed and sustain our lives.

Sa'aamt waan, Wii Sm'ooygit, K'amgool waan.

Bless you, Great Spirit, Thank you.



KYOOX

GRASS

Lesson 1: Dm La Sikyoogm

How to harvest (canary) grass

1. Dm hoyn na hagagaytgn dm wil sak'odza wil basaga kyoox.
Use your scissors to cut where the grass is divided.
2. Sak'ask'odza 'nawa'na a lax'oo kyoox adam gynadoot a laxyuub.
Cut off the seeds at the top and leave it where you found it.
3. Doga gup'l 'naga lax'oot.
Take the top two.
4. Ksa goo gasgaw dm
hoyn 'nii dm guuln.
Harvest only what you need.
5. Gyiloomdza hoy
kyoogm halgyiika.
Don't use beach grass.



Delores Churchill harvesting canary grass.

Lesson 2: Goo Mdm Wila Gwildm Ga'wn Kyoox

How to prepare (canary) grass

1. Dm hathot'agn aks a ts'm 'wiileeksm galdm t'u'utsk.
Boil your water in a large pot.
2. Logm doo kyoox a ts'm aks adam hathot'agnt a ligi gup'l wil kyep da minits.
Put the grass in the water and boil for 20 minutes.
3. Ła hathot'axga kyoox dawila sityaawksa wilgyet a meliitk dawila xs'yaanak'almost.
Boiling the grass helps turn the grass from green to yellow.
4. Dm hoyn 'lag ada inluupis mdm luunda 'yaayga kyoox.
String your grass with a needle and thread for hanging.
5. Dm 'yaayagn a ksiganlugoy'pa dm wilt siluuna da gyemg ada dm xs'yaanak'almost.
Hang them in the window so the sun will shine on them and turn them yellow.
6. Dzila hoyaga mdm wil hoyt, lullooksnt a ts'm aks.
When ready to use, soak in water.
7. Dm k'odzn nda gasgaaw hasagn.
Cut to the size you need to weave with.



Canary grass after it has been boiled and sun dried.

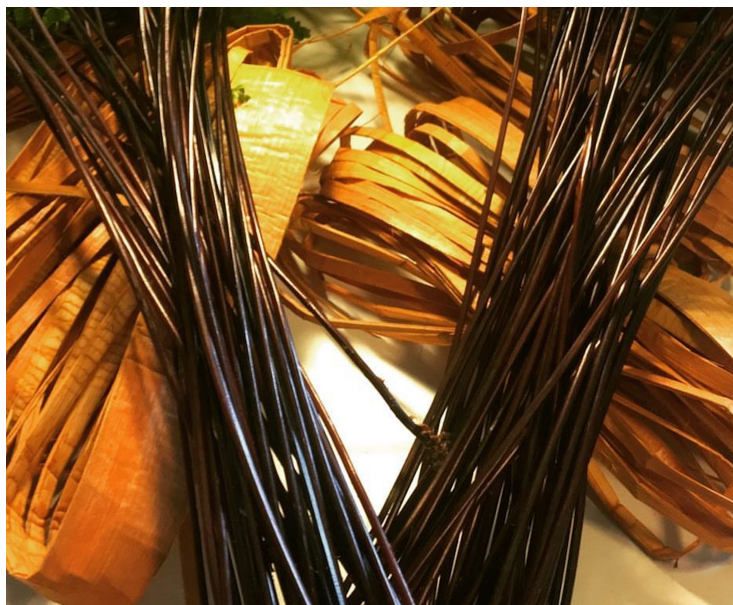
DEMTII

MAIDENHAIR FERN

Lesson 1: Dm La Sidemtiin

How you harvest maidenhair fern

1. Dm 'waayn wil luyeks.
Find a sheltered area that doesn't get a lot of wind.
2. Dm hoyn na hagagaytgn mdm k'odza demtii a 'aym awaa laxyuub.
Use your scissors to cut the fern as low to the ground as you can before it starts to twist.
3. Sakask'odza 'yens adam gyinadoot a laxyuub.
Cut off the leaves and leave them where you found them.
4. Gyiloomdza sakask'odza kwsduunsa laxs a lax'oot.
Leave the five smaller branches still attached.
5. Dziła luyeltgn a na waabn 'nii mdm wil sakask'odzt.
Cut them away when you get home.
6. Ksa goo gasgaw dm hoyn 'nii dm güültn.
Harvest only what you need.



Freshly harvested maidenhair fern laying on top of red cedar split into warps.

Lesson 2: Goo Mdm Wila Gwildm Ga'wn Demtii

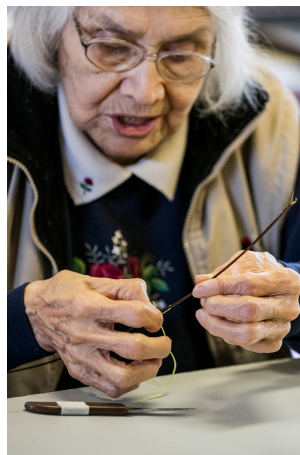
How to prepare maidenhair fern

1. Lullooksnt a ts'm hathot'axgm aks.
Soak in boiling hot water.
2. Dm hoyn na hak'oo hałabiiskn mdm txaa'in demtii ada dm wil k'axt.
Use the back of your knife to gently apply pressure to flatten the stem and open it up.
3. Ksi łaalba na ts'awt wagayt dm wil yetgit.
Scrape the insides until smooth.
4. Gup'l wil liksgigyeda wilgyet, lagalooop ada t'u'utsk.
You will have two colors, dark brown and black.
5. Dm k'odzn nda gasgaaw hasagn.
Cut to the size you need to weave with.



Clockwise from top right:
Annette Topham and Kimberlee Anderson soaking and cleaning the maidenhair fern.

Delores Churchill teaching students how to open and remove the pith of the maidenhair fern with her fingernail.



Jamie Thompson using the back of her knife to flatten the maidenhair fern.

Kandi McGilton examining the straight stem of a maidenhair fern.
