**Ethical and Ecological Considerations for the Wildcrafter and Forager**

*Before you pick it, ask yourself . . .*

* How abundant is this plant? How is it distributed on the landscape?
* Is this plant native? Non-native? Invasive?
* What is my intended impact? Cultivate? Sustain? Diminish? Eradicate?
* What is my ecological relationship? Commensal? Mutualistic? Parasitic?
* What is the plant’s lifecycle? Annual? Perennial? Biennial? If it is perennial, how does it perenniate?
* What is the plant’s seed dispersal mechanism
* Can this plant be propagated? If so, how is this plant propagated? Seed? Root/rhizome cutting? Stem cutting?
* What part of the plant am I gathering? Roots or other underground structures? Rhizomes? Above ground parts? Flowers? Seeds?
* Who else uses this plant? Birds? Insects arachnids or other bugs? Amphibians? Reptiles? Small or large mammals? Other humans?
* How do others use this plant? Food? Shelter? Visual appeal? What part of the plant might they be utilizing?
* Will my harvest of this plant impact their dependence on it or their survival? If so, how?
* What season am I gathering in? How does this impact the plant? Others critters that utilize the plant?
* What is the context of my harvest? Urban? Rural? Wild? Who uses this place and how?
* What kind of habitat am I gathering in? Wetland? Forest? Upland? What kind of soil? Slope? Species composition? How much water flow? How does water flow through the area?