

## Link 4. *Echinacea angustifolia* Harvesting

(Compiled by Robyn Klein)

*Echinacea angustifolia* is not as easy to grow as *E. purpurea*, and so it is primarily obtained through the harvest of native wild stands.

The root of *Echinacea angustifolia* is usually dug an average of 11.72 cm below the surface of the soil.

In the late 1990s, most of the *Echinacea angustifolia* was obtained by digging from wild populations in the continental United States.

Over 30 million *Echinacea* plants were harvested between 1998 and 2001.

It takes over 220 *Echinacea* plants to equal 1 kg of dried root.

When prices are high, harvesters can decimate a wild stand of *Echinacea* in a short amount of time, like a gold rush.

The holes left by the harvesters are a danger to livestock and can encourage weed invasion. Tire tracks also left disturbed soil in these areas, potentially creating spaces for weed invasion and soil erosion.

Two years without harvest is necessary for *Echinacea* populations to recover, though these would be small plants and not worth harvesting.

Long-term diggers have a strong conservation ethic and appreciation of the native prairie.

The Montana Native Plant Society has published guidelines for harvesting, as have many wildcrafters and herbalists: <http://www.mtnativeplants.org/filelib/58.pdf>

About harvesting from a researcher and a tribal elder:

[www.mtnativeplants.org/fileaccess/getfile/351.pdf](http://www.mtnativeplants.org/fileaccess/getfile/351.pdf)

Montana Senate Bill 178 (1999): <http://leg.mt.gov/bills/billhtml/sb0178.htm>

Then the Montana Senate Bill 178 (1999) becomes law as MCA 76-10-101:

[http://leg.mt.gov/bills/mca\\_toc/76\\_10\\_1.htm](http://leg.mt.gov/bills/mca_toc/76_10_1.htm)

For more about the process of Senate Bill 178's passage from a Montana Native Plant Society Newsletter in 1999: [http://mtnativeplants.org/Kelsey\\_Society\\_Newsletter](http://mtnativeplants.org/Kelsey_Society_Newsletter)

\*Once on the site keep scrolling down the archives list on the main page that opens until you see: Volume 12 (1998 - 1999) and V 12, No. 3, Spring 1999 then "Legislation Passed for the Sustainable Harvest of Wild Plants"



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Institute of Texas.