

## Pronunciation of Lakota Plant Species - Ethnobotany of the Northern Plains - BHSU - Spearfish, SD

<u>COMMON NAME</u>	<u>LAKOTA</u>	<u>ETYMOLOGY</u>
<b>Yarrow</b>	<u>taopi pejuta</u> “tah-OH-pee pay-JOO-tah”	“wound medicine”
	<u>hante canhlogan</u> “hahn -TAY–chahn-LOH-Ghan”	“cedar weed” or “hollow stalk weed” (leaves somewhat resemble cedar)
<b>Bitterroot</b>	<u>hohwa</u>	“none”; or refers to the leaves/stalks which are eaten
<b>Sweet Flag</b>	“Hoh-WAH” <u>sinkpe tawote</u> “sing-KPAY tah-Woh-tay”	“muskrat food”
<b>Ragweed</b>	<u>canhlogan wastemna</u> “chahn-LOH-gahn wah-SHTEY’-manah”	“good-smelling plant or weed”
<b>Lead Plant</b>	<u>zintka tacan</u> “Zeen-TKAH tah-CHAHN”	“bird body”; “the bird’s wood” or “the bird’s tree”
<b>Dogbane</b>	<u>nape oilekhiyapi</u> “nah-PAY oh-EE-laykee-yah-pee”	“makes the hands burn”
<b>Bearberry</b>	<u>wahpe chanli</u> “wahk-PAY chahn-LEE	“tobacco leaf”
<b>Sage</b>	<u>pejihota</u> “pay-JEE-HOH-tah”	“gray plant”
<b>White Sage (Man Sage)</b>	<u>pejihota ape blaskaska</u> “pay-JEE-HOH -tah ah-PAY blah-SKAH-skah”	“flat-leaved white sage”
<b>Fringed Sage (Women Sage)</b>	<u>peji hota wastemna; peji hota winyan</u> “pay-JEE HOH -tah wah-SHTEH -manah	“good smelling gray grass”
<b>Purple Coneflower/ Echinacea</b>	<u>icahpe hu</u> “ee-CHAH-pay HOO” <u>onglakcapi</u> “ohn-GLAK-chapi”	“something used to knock something down” (grows in hills of higher places) “something to comb the hair with” (grows in lower places) root—tooth ache & swellings

<b>Sweet Grass</b>	<u>(peji) wachanga</u> “(pay-JEE) wah-CHAHN-gah”	“unknown”; sweet grass (peji – grass)
<b>Paper Birch</b>	<u>can han san</u> “chahn HAHN Shahn”	“wood/white birch” or “white bark tree” (for sugar/sweetening//maple syrup)
<b>Bush Morning Glory</b>	<u>pejuta nige tanka</u> “pay-JOO-tah nee-GAY TAHN-kah”	“big belly medicine”
<b>Red Cedar, Juniper</b>	<u>hante</u> “han-TAY”	“none”
<b>Mint</b>	<u>ceyaka</u> “chay-YAH-kah”	“none” (refers to tea) (can pejuta cikala- little medicine wood)
<b>Bergamot/ Beebalm</b>	<u>wahpe wastemna</u> “wahk-PAY wah-SHTAY-manah” OR hehaka tapejuta or hehaka tawote	“good-smelling leaf” “elk medicine”
<b>Plantain</b>	<u>wihutahu iyecheca</u> “wee-HOO-tah-hoo ee-YAY-chay-chah”	“like cattails”
<b>Choke Cherry</b>	<u>canpa (hu)</u> “chahn-PAH (hoo)”	“none”; “bitter wood stem or root”
<b>Prairie Turnip</b>	<u>tinpsila</u> “TEEN-psee-lah”	“wild turnip” (possible derivation – Zizania – wild rice or psin, rice, combined with word for prairie; became important substitute plant when people moved west from Minnesota): Tinpsila pahu (above ground green part)
<b>Sumac</b>	<u>canzi</u> “chahn-ZEE”	“yellow wood” leaves are smoked when they turn red in the fall
<b>Willow</b>	<u>cowanjica</u> “choh-WAHN-jee-chah”	“one heart-wood”
<b>Buffalo Berry</b>	<u>mastinca pute can</u> “mah-SHTEEN-chah poo-TAY CHAHN”	“rabbit-lip tree”

<b>Cattail</b>	<u>wihuta hu</u> “wee-HOO-tah-hoo” or <u>hantkan, hintkan</u> “hahn-TKAHN, heen-TKAHN”	“tipi-bottom plant” (lower border of tent stem) “none”; refers to the hairy fruit (Buechel)
<b>Red Osier Dogwood</b>	<u>can sasa</u> “chahn SHAH SHAH”	“red wood” (Lakota tobacco)
<b>Yucca</b>	<u>hupestola, pestostola</u> “hoo-PAY-stah-lah, pay-STOH-stoh-lah”	“sharp pointed”
<b>Hop Hornbeam/Iron Wood</b>	<u>ispanspanheca</u> “ee spahn spahn HEH cha” <u>can maza</u> “CHAHN mazah”	“it burns” or “make something soft by pounding” (Buechel) “iron/metal wood”
<b>Plum</b>	kanta “KHAN tah”	“wild plum”
<b>Mullein</b> (introduced)	caguiyage “Chah HOO ee yah heh”	“cleansing/purifying the lungs”
<b>Lichen</b> spp. Yellow dye, smudge	<u>can wizi ye</u> “chahn WEE zee yeh”	“yellowish wood”
<b>Box Elder</b>	<u>can suska</u> “chahn SHUS kah”	“sweet sap wood” (used as a sweetener)
<b>Bur Oak</b>	<u>u tahu can</u> “yooh TAHHOO chahn”	“acorn stem tree”
<b>Ponderosa Pine</b>	<u>wazi can</u> “wahZEE chahn”	“pine tree” wazi pinkpa (pine cones)
<b>Cottonwood</b>	<u>canya hu</u> “chahn YAH hoo” or saga can; wahcinca (small cottonwood) wa’ga can (“take off wood”) popopa can (po po pah CHAN)	“peel off wood” cotton wood

<b>Little Bluestem</b>	<u>peji sasa swula</u> “pay JEE shah shah SWOO Lah”	“little red grass” (fine grass)
<b>Rose</b>	<u>onjinjintka hu</u> “unh ZHEE Zintka hoo”  unjinjinatka hu can <u>onzhin-zintka</u> “uhn ZHEE Zint ka”	“wild rose bush”  “prairie wild rose” rose hips - food, for jam/jelly petals – tea, roots –stronger tea
<b>Red Raspberry</b>	<u>takan heca hu</u> “Tah KAHN HEH CHA hoo”	“stem like sinew”
<b>Wild Grape</b>	<u>cunwi yapehe iyu wi</u> “chuhn WEE yah peh heh”	“wood use with wind around vine”; “tangled vine” or “twisted wood” (fruit part used for food)
<b>Currant/Gooseberry</b>	<u>chap ta haza</u> “chop TAH Hah zah”	“beaver berries” “beaver taking in its mouth”
<b>Serviceberry/June Berry</b>	<u>wipa zutha/n</u> “WEE pah zoot kah/n”	“a thing used to crack bones” (wood stem used for arrows)
<b>Scarlet Globemallow</b>	<u>heyoka tapejuta</u> “hay YO kah tah PAY joo tah”	“Heyoka Medicine” (Sacred Clown/Contrary medicine)
<b>Poison Ivy</b>	wiko ska tapejuta “wee KOH skah tah PAY joo tah”	“crazy/young woman’s medicine”

**General Plant Terms:** peji – grass (pay JEE) huta or hute – roots (HOO tah or HOO tay) hu – stem (hoo) pejihuta- “grass roots”/herbal medicine  
pejuta – “medicine” (pay JOO tah) tashpu - stem of fruits (tahsh POO) canhlogan- “hollow stalk” (chahn LOH Ghan) wahpe – leaf/leaves (wahk PAY)  
wahca – flowers (wahk CHAH)

**Some Recommended Resources:** Buechel’s Lakota Language Dictionary; Gilmore’s Uses of Plants by the Indians of the Missouri River Region (early 1900’s);  
Rogers’ Lakota Names & Traditional Uses of Native Plants by Sicangu (Brule) People in the Rosebud Area South Dakota; Kindscher’s Medicinal Wild Plants of the Prairie; and  
Larson & Johnson’s Plants of the Black Hills & Bear Lodge Mountains

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