

European centaury
(*Centaurea umbellata*)



Florističko bogatstvo Srbije obuhvata oko 700 vrsta lekovitih bigaka. U širokoj upotrebi je 420 vrsta, od čega se komercijalno koristi 280, a zakonski je regulisano sakupawe, korišćewe i promet 63 zaštićene biqne vrste.

Lekovito biqe ima upotrebu ne samo u tradicionalnoj medicini, već i u farmaceutskoj, prehrambenoj i kozmetičkoj industriji. Nestanak bilo koje lekovite biqne vrste kao jedinstvene hemijske laboratorije i genetskog potencijala predstavqa nenadoknativ gubitak za prirodu, a samim tim i za čoveka. Povećani zahtevi za ovim prirodnim sirovinama doveli su do razvoja plantažnog gajewa kojim se dopuwuje ili potpuno zamewuje wihovo tradicionalno sakupqawe iz prirode.

Garden sage
(*Salvia officinalis*)



U Srbiji raste oko 4000 biqnih vrsta. Značajan udeo u tom florističkom bogatstvu imaju i brojne samonikle lekovite vrste koje su ujedno i dragocena prirodna riznica zdravqa budućih generacija. Shodno wihovom značaju, neophodno je da se kontinuirano i osmišqeno brine o očuwawu ovog nacionalnog prirodnog resursa.

Mountain germander
(*Teucrium montanum*)



Biodiversity or biological diversity means the totality of species, ecosystems and landscapes on Earth. Due to numerous factors, Serbia has a high genetic, species and ecosystem diversity and therefore is classified as an important region of biodiversity in Europe. The Convention on Biological diversity – CBD which main aim is to prevent the extinction of species and their habitats also includes the segment of medicinal herbs protection. Bearing in mind that the United Nations declared this decade the Decade of Biodiversity, the Convention members, including Serbia, have pledged to achieve a reduction in the rate of biodiversity loss at global, regional and national levels by 2020, and to contribute to poverty reduction and overall improvement of living conditions on the planet.

Biodiversity and medicinal herbs



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INSTITUTE FOR NATURE CONSERVATION OF SERBIA

MEDICINAL HERBS

SUSTAINABLE USE OF NATURE'S TREASURY



Great yellow gentian reintroduction in Stara planina mountain



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Oregano
(*Origanum vulgare*)



European wild ginger
(*Asarum europaeum*)



Saint John's wort
(*Hypericum perforatum*)

Legal protection of certain species

Collection, use and trade of medicinal herb species from natural habitats in quantities and in a way that does not threaten their survival in the future is governed by the following laws and regulations in R. of Serbia:

- Law on Environmental Protection ("Official Gazette of RS" No. 135/04, 36/09);
- Law on Nature Protection ("Official Gazette of RS" No. 36/09, 88/10 and 91/10);
- Rulebook on the declaration and protection of protected and strictly protected plants, animals and fungi ("Official Gazette of RS" No. 05/10 and 47/11);
- The Decree on control of use and trade of wild flora and fauna ("Official Gazette of RS" No.31/05, 45/05 22/07 38/08, 9/10 and 69/11);
- Rulebook on transboundary trade of protected species ("Official Gazette of RS" No. 99/09).

In order to ensure the wild collection of protected species of medicinal herbs in line with capabilities and capacities of natural resources, once a year a public competition for obtaining the permits for collecting, use and trade according to specified quantities — contingents or quotas is performed. According to the applications submitted under competition, the Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia issues the official opinion which is a necessary precondition for obtaining permits for wild collecting of protected species for commercial purposes.



Common hawthorn
(*Crataegus monogyna* Jacq.)



Tansy
(*Tanacetum vulgare*)



Stemless gentian
(*Gentiana kochiana*)



Wood anemone
(*Anemone nemorosa*)



Cross gentian
(*Gentiana cruciata*)



Great yellow gentian
(*Gentiana lutea*)



Great yellow gentian nursery garden in Tara mountain



Yarrow
(*Achillea millefolium*)

A few tips on collecting medicinal herbs

Bearing in mind that wild medicinal herbs are threatened due to excessive exploitation and destructive collecting techniques and habitat destruction, while collecting it is necessary to comply with certain procedures and rules:

- Person collecting medicinal herbs should be familiar with methods of harvesting, species which are collected and should also be careful so as not to pick a similar plant that can pose a danger to human health, or to pick a rare and endangered species.
- While collecting attention should be paid not to collect plants which are scarce in the habitat;
- Do not pluck the entire plant with its root;
- If the species above-ground parts are used, its root shouldn't be plucked or damaged, nor should tree and shrub branches be broken while collecting the fruit, flower or leaf;
- The leaves mustn't be torn, but cut with knife or scissors.

The vision of medicinal herbs conservation in nature

Some traditional medicinal herb species such as gentian, sage, sweet flag, round-leaved sundew or dew-plant, immortelle, stag's-horn club moss and false hellebore, have nowadays become extremely rare and endangered in Serbia, which is why their exploitation is strictly prohibited.

Balkan gentian (*Gentiana lutea* L. subsp. *symphyandra*) due to its medicinal properties has always been specially regarded in traditional medicine. Gentian root is at great demand, especially for the treatment of stomach diseases and fever, and it is also very useful for general health improvement. However, easy identification of the plant in nature, high market price and high demand, pose a serious threat to the species extinction from natural habitats. Over last few years, exploitation and collecting of gentian from nature has been prohibited. Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia supports and promotes the potential of its plantation growing and also plans a variety of activities to improve the protection and sustainable use of gentian.

