

August 2026

WILD KIDS

SEASONAL NATURE EDUCATION FOR KIDS & THEIR GROWN UPS

August Foraging
Scavenger Hunt

Citizen Science
Projects for August

Roll-it
Nature Walks

Clever Cacti

August Nature
Photo Prompts

Seasonal poems,
activities,
nature journal pages
and more!



From the editor

BY ALICIA BAYER

Hello August!

Wow, how summer has flown by! It's hard to believe it is the last full month of summer already.

What are you hoping to do in nature this month? There is still so much that I'd like to do - more foraging, camping, boating, nighttime campfires, storm watching, beach combing, biking, hiking, rock collecting, and lots and lots of swimming, to name a few.

I will be taking part in a fun outdoor festival this month and also taking some people on a foraging walk so they can learn about wild edible and medicinal plants that grow wild in our area. I am sometimes a shy person, but I love to talk to people about subjects that I love like nature, foraging and art (our family runs a free art center out of a rescued 126 year old church in our little town).

We have some fun activities in this month's Wild Kids, like a foraging scavenger hunt and a roll-it nature dice game. I'm hoping to do some of those with my family this month too. Most of our kids are grown up now, but luckily the grown ones all live nearby and still like to forage and play in nature with me and my husband.

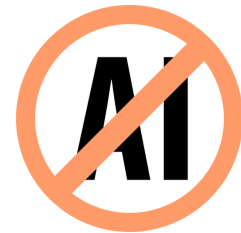
Whatever you love to do in nature, I hope you find lots of fun ways to have fun with it this month!

Alicia



Why is Wild Kids free?

Kids (and their grown ups) need nature, and nature needs us! Our family believes in the importance of sharing & helping each other, and of passing on skills to help our world and each other. As long as we are able, we plan to produce Wild Kids to help do this for families who find it useful.



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Go Wild in August!

10 Ways to Play & Learn with Nature this Month

Before it rains, paint a picture in mud on a large rock or the driveway for the rain to alter

Take a Roll-it nature walk each day (we have the printable dice in this issue)

Lay a dark or brightly colored t-shirt in the sun with rocks on it in a pattern and leave it for a few days for the sun to bleach a pattern onto it

Watch the Perseid meteor shower late at night — it peaks on August 12 & 13

Use a jar to start an August nature collection of cool & pretty rocks, shells, bugs & other nature items you find this month

Gather driftwood & shells with holes in them to make your own wind chimes with string

Do a citizen science project — we have some fun ones in this issue

Go to an event at a local nature center

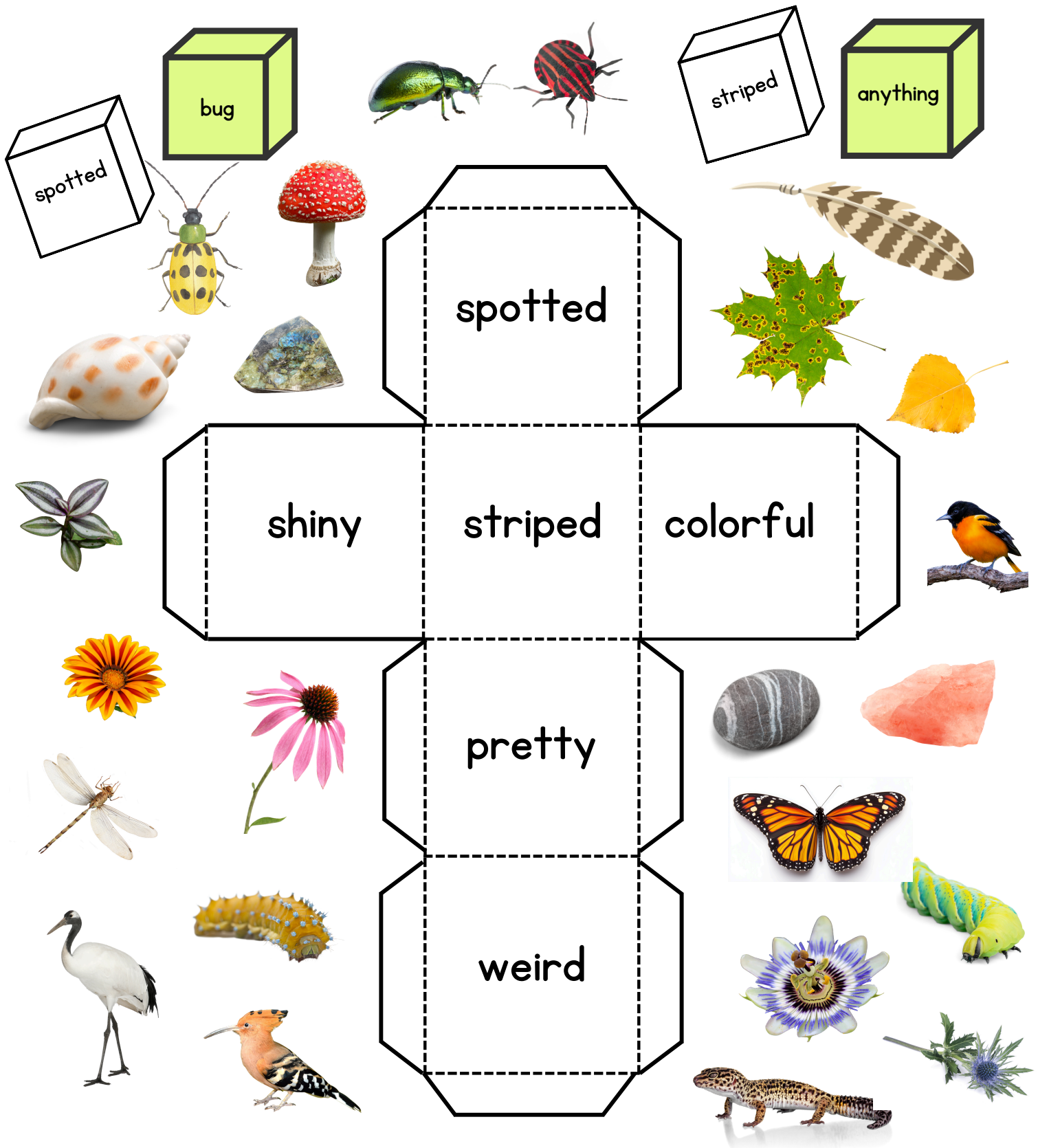
Look for the partial lunar (moon) eclipse on August 28 *

Gather some edible (not sprayed!) leaves & flowers like mint, rose petals & lavender & freeze them in ice cubes to put in cold drinks

*You can find the time to see it in your area by typing in your city here: <https://www.timeanddate.com/eclipse/lunar/2026-august-28>

August Daily Adventure

GO ON A ROLL-IT WALK!

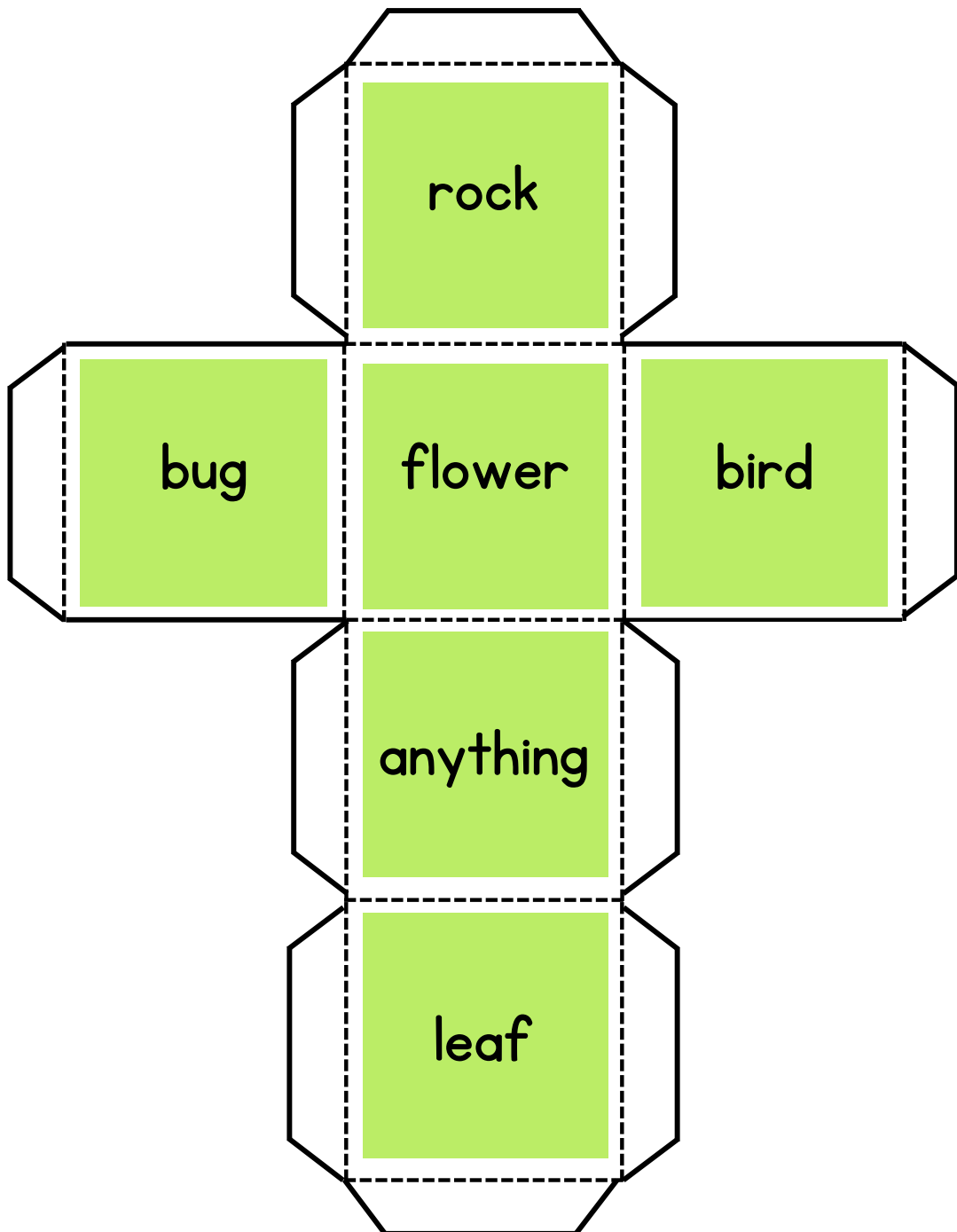


Directions:

1. Cut along the solid lines
2. Fold along dotted lines
3. Glue the tabs to form a cube

How to play:

1. Roll the white cube
2. Roll the green cube
3. Head into nature to find something that matches both



AUGUST FORAGING SCAVENGER HUNT

How many of these edible & medicinal plants can you find this month?

Check off the ones you spot!

wild grapes



bee balm



oyster
mushrooms



walnuts



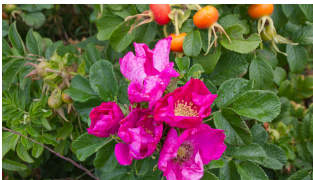
lambsquarters



staghorn
sumac



wild roses &
hips



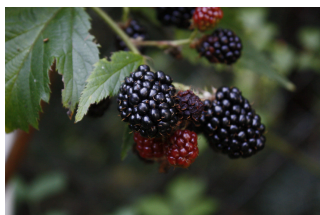
chicken of the
woods



purslane



blackberries



dock seeds



apples



AUGUST FORAGING SCAVENGER HUNT

How many of these edible & medicinal plants can you find this month?

Check off the ones you spot!

crab apples



acorns



sand cherries



elderberries



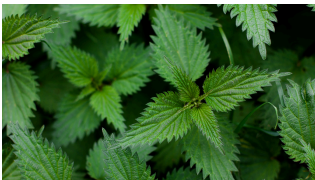
prickly pear
cactus



wild plums



nettles



pears



plantain



wood sorrel



jewelweed

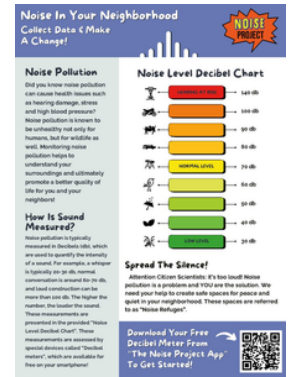


mullein flowers



10 Fun Citizen Science Projects to take part in this month

Kids like you can help nature and scientists



Have you heard of citizen science? That's where ordinary people help scientists by doing things like observing wildlife, analyzing photographs of constellations and even counting the insects in their houses.

There are citizen science projects for just about any place you live and for all kinds of nature topics. You can do a lot of them from your own house, while others ask you to report on nature-related observations in your area.

Here are some examples of citizen science projects that could use your help. These are just a few examples but there are thousands more!

- *Noise in your Neighborhood* asks kids to download their free app to monitor noise levels in your neighborhood to find the noisiest and quietest areas.
- *eButterfly* asks you to check off butterflies you spot in your area & submit photos if you can.
- *Urban Buzz* asks you to send them 2-5 dead cicadas you find so scientists can monitor how environmental changes are affecting them.
- *Restoring and Rewilding Patches of Nature* at *We Are the ARK* asks you to turn part of your garden into a native garden & make a sign about how it helps nature.
- *Desert Pick It Up Artists* asks kids to pick up trash from the desert & use it to make art projects.
- *SkyQI* asks you to take a picture of your night sky so they can see how much light pollution is in your area and map it.
- *Global Water Clarity Project* asks you to take pictures of your water sources like tap water and local rivers for scientists to track and compare.
- *Ant Picnic* asks kids to set out 6 kinds of foods and record how many ants visit each kind.
- *Smithsonian Wildlife: Our Shared Future 250* asks you to look at photos at home that were snapped along the Lewis and Clark trail by trail cameras and check off the animals you see in them.

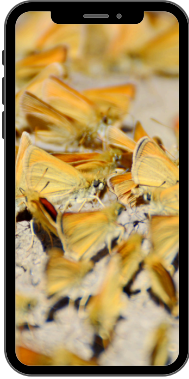


Go to scistarter.org to learn more about each of these and find other citizen science projects you can take part in!

August

Nature Photo Challenge

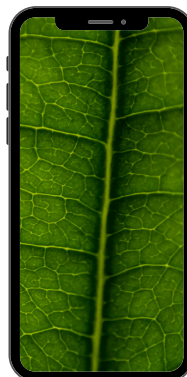
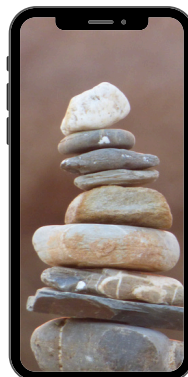
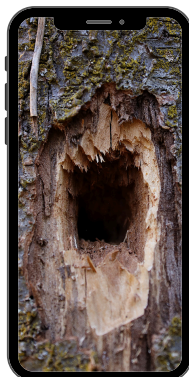
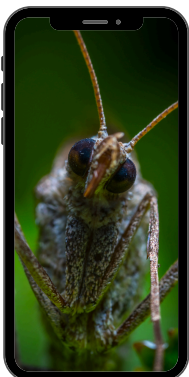
Try to head outside and take a picture each day with that day's prompt as an inspiration!



- 1 Starts with B
- 2 Seeds
- 3 Sharp
- 4 Lots
- 5 Pink
- 6 Busy
- 7 Crack
- 8 Flower
- 9 Legs
- 10 Stacked

- 11 Fuzzy
- 12 Orange
- 13 Round
- 14 Safe
- 15 Old
- 16 Colorful
- 17 Pattern
- 18 Rock
- 19 Hidden
- 20 Symmetrical

- 21 Dusty
- 22 Fragile
- 23 Creepy
- 24 Fruit
- 25 Helpful
- 26 Droplet
- 27 Identical
- 28 Poisonous
- 29 Shiny
- 30 Sky
- 31 Nutty



August Poetry

Happy Fields of Summer
by Lucy Larcom

Happy fields of summer, all your airy grasses
Whispering and bowing when the west wind passes,—
Happy lark and nestling, hid beneath the mowing,
Root sweet music in you, to the white clouds growing!

Happy fields of summer, softly billowed over
With the feathery red-top and the rosy clover,—
Happy little children seek your shady places,
Lark-songs in their bosoms, sunshine on their faces!

Happy little children, skies are bright above you,
Trees bend down to kiss you, breeze and blossom love you;
And we bless you, playing in the field-paths mazy,
Swinging with the harebell, dancing with the daisy!

Happy fields of summer, touched with deeper beauty
As your tall grain ripens, tell the children duty
Is as sweet as pleasure;—tell them both are blended
In the best life-story, well begun and ended!

A Midsummer Day
by George Cooper

There's a flush in the sky of crimson deep;
From a waking bird there's a drowsy cheep;
There's a ripple of gold upon the brooks,
And a glitter of dew in dusky nooks.
And this is the way
A midsummer day
Bids the world good-morning.

There's a tremulous cry from a tree-toad hid,
And the husky plaint of the katydid;
Then the fire-flies wink, now high, now low,
Like a sudden flurry of golden snow.
And this is the way
A midsummer day
Bids the world good-evening.

Warm Summer Sun
by Mark Twain

Warm summer sun
Shine kindly here.
Warm southern wind
Blow softly here.
Green sod above
Lie light. lie light —
Good night. dear heart.
Good night. good night.



The Night Sky
by Unknown Author

All day long
The sun shines bright.
The moon and stars
Come out by night.
From twilight time
They line the skies
And watch the world
With quiet eyes.

Clever Cacti

How could you keep yourself safe if you couldn't ever move?

How could you survive as a plant if there was almost never any rain?

Cacti have solved all these problems for themselves, and more!

Cacti (the word for more than one cactus) are very clever plants! They have evolved to protect themselves in all different ways.

They have sharp spines to keep animals and people from picking them or eating them. These spines also help them conserve water because they need less water than leaves do and they don't evaporate as quickly. They have a waxy coating that helps protect them from drying out too.

They have very shallow roots that spread over a big distance, so when there is finally rain they can absorb as much as possible.

They can also store a lot of water!

Cacti also survive by having a very long dormant period. When a plant is dormant, it is resting and not using energy to grow or reproduce (make more plants). Cacti are dormant most of the year so they don't need much water. They do their growing and flowering after the hottest part of the year and it's a pretty short season before they go dormant again.

When they do flower, they make big, pretty flowers that attract a lot of pollinators like bees, hummingbirds and even bats. After that, they make big, bright, tasty fruits that birds like. The birds eat the fruits and help spread the seeds to make new cacti.

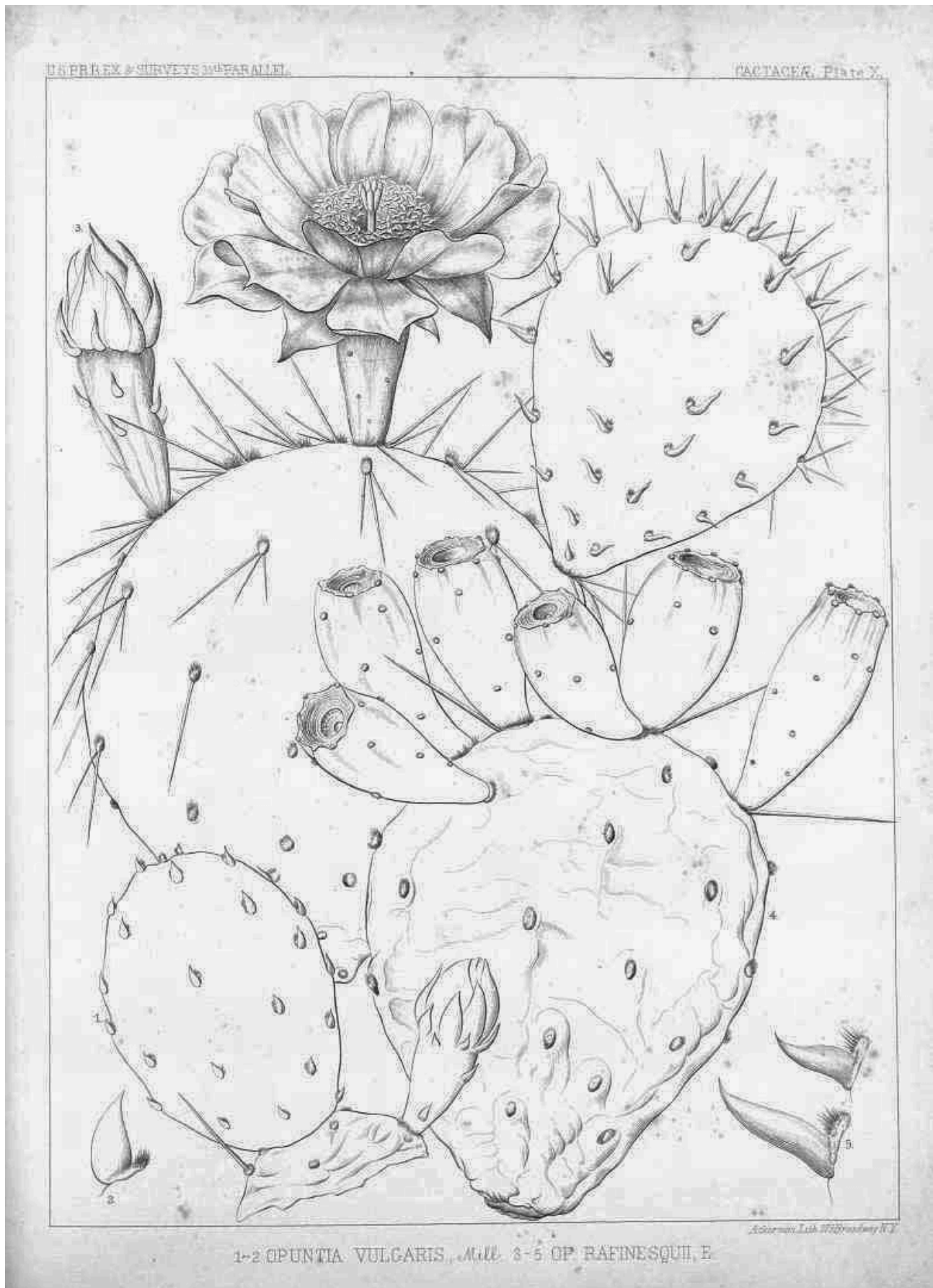
There are about 1,750 kinds of cacti that we know of. Many of them are also edible. People have been eating cactus types like prickly pear cactus for over 12,000 years! Some are poisonous, so it's important to be 100% sure of what type you have if you forage for cacti.

Some of the most common types of cacti that people eat (either the leaves or the fruits) are prickly pear (nopales), dragon fruit, Peruvian apple cactus, barrel cactus and saguaro.

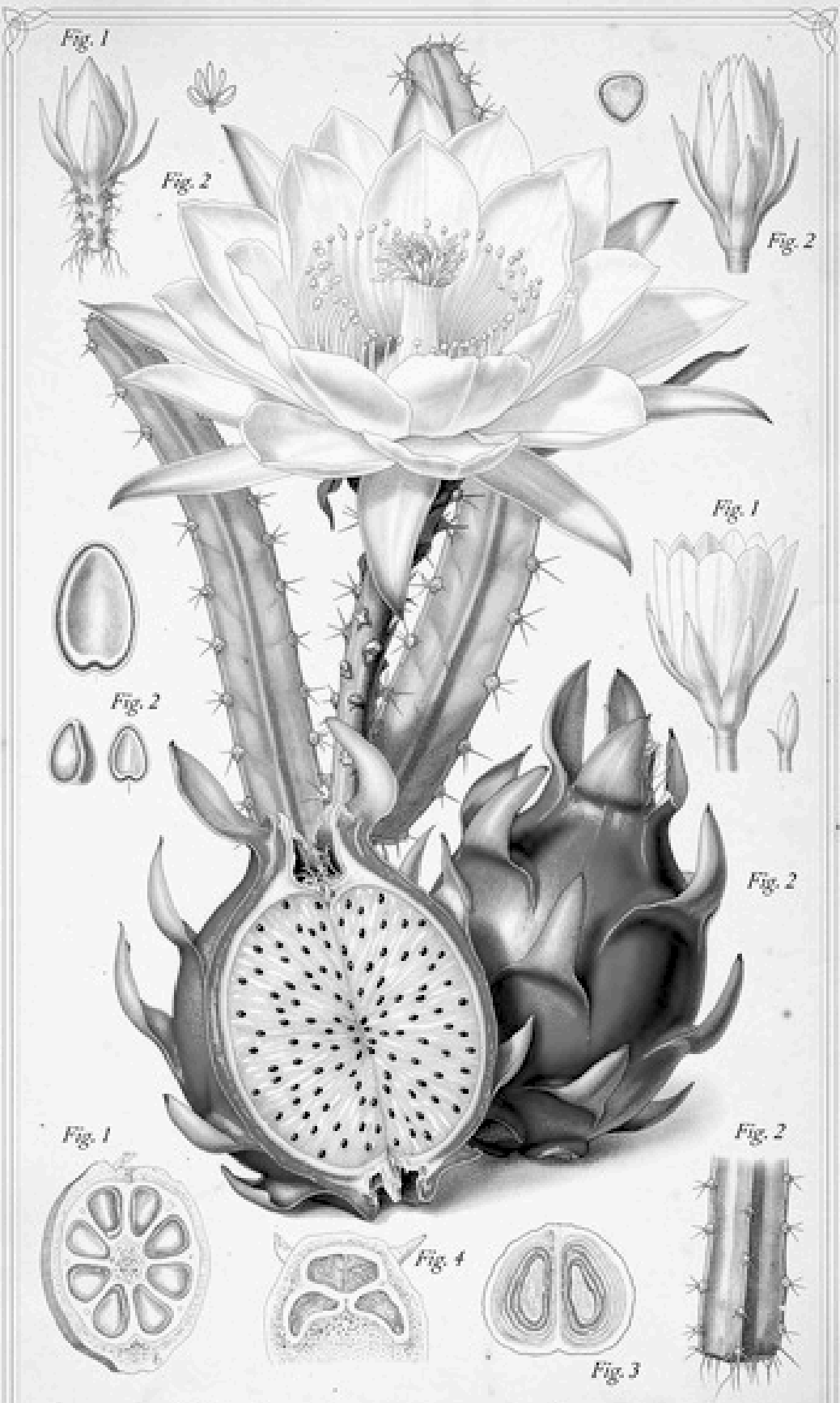


PRICKLY PEAR CACTUS

(*Opuntia vulgaris*)



(*Hylocereus undatus*))



August 2026 Phenology Calendar



Keep track of nature observations in your area this month like extreme weather, garden harvests, foraging finds, and wildlife spotted.
You can draw them or write them!

Examples...

- Dragonflies by the pond
- Blanketflower blooming
- Foraged wild grapes
- Monarch caterpillars spotted
- Jewelweed blooming
- Hail storm
- Temps over 100
- Flocks of grackles in trees
- Warblers migrating
- Acorns falling
- Oyster mushrooms in park
- Wind storm over 50 mph
- Garden tomatoes ripe
- Elderberries ripening
- Northern lights in sky
- Hummingbirds at trumpet vine

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

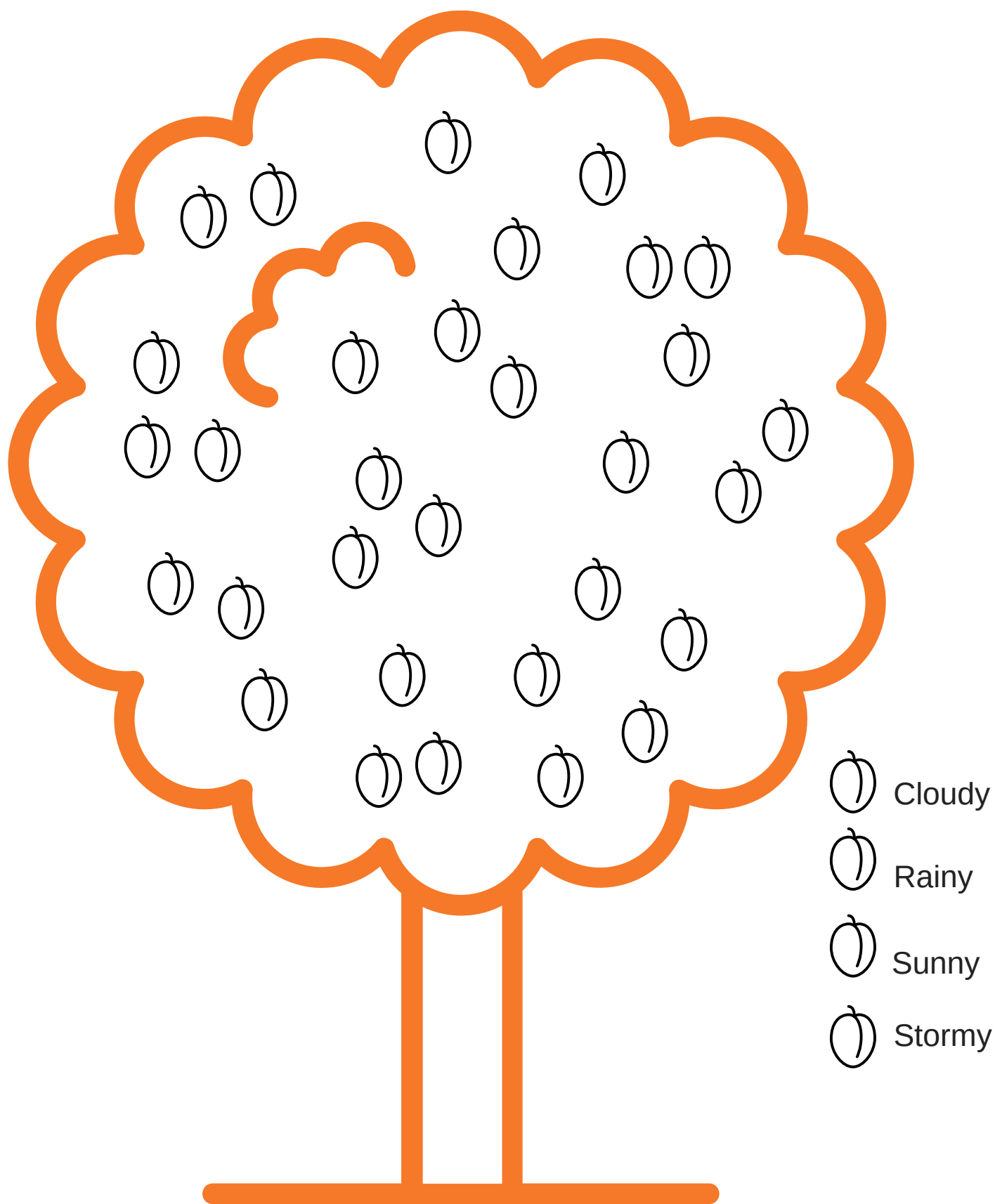
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

MY NATURE JOURNAL

August



August Weather Tree



August Bird List

Birds spotted this month

August Animal List

Mammals, reptiles & other wildlife spotted this month

AUGUST NATURE NOTES

Record any interesting discoveries here -- plants you identify, foods you forage, outdoor activities, cool nature projects, nature books read, or just notes about what it's like outside this week!

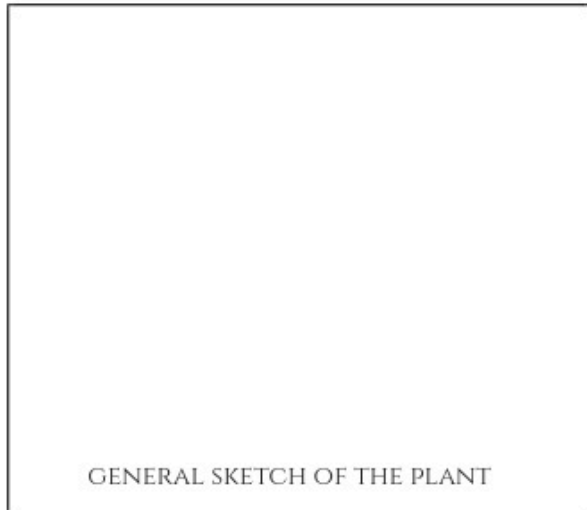
Week 1 Observations

Week 2 Observations

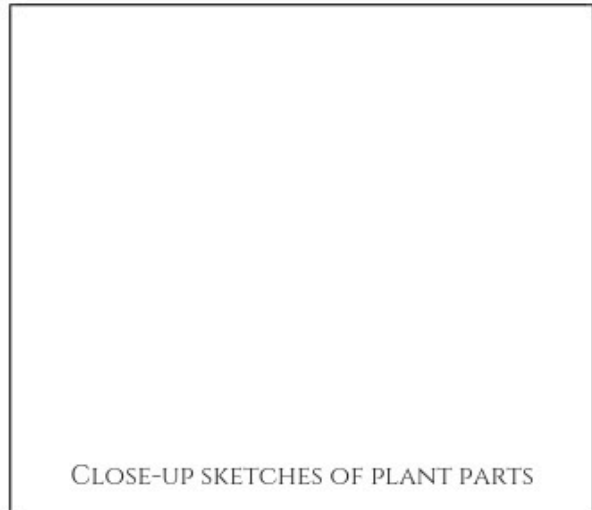
Week 3 Observations

Week 4 Observations

MY FORAGING GUIDE FOR:



GENERAL SKETCH OF THE PLANT



CLOSE-UP SKETCHES OF PLANT PARTS

LATIN NAME _____

WHERE FOUND _____

PARTS USED _____

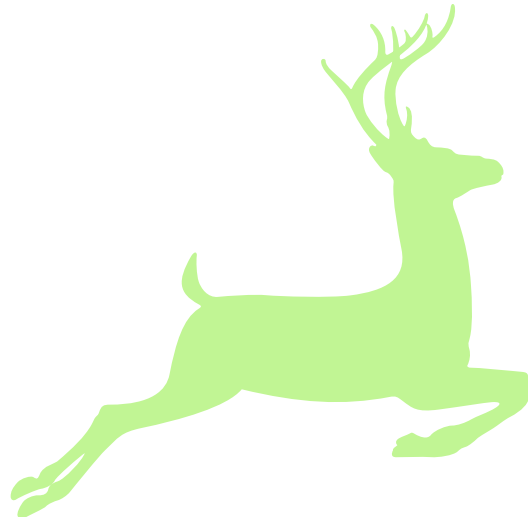
LOOKALIKES & HOW TO POSITIVELY ID:

WARNINGS: _____

FORAGING RECORD (DATES, WHERE FOUND, HOW IT WAS USED)

MY RATING FOR THIS PLANT





Want to see your stuff in Wild Kids?

We welcome articles, photos, artwork and other submissions from kids and their grown ups.

Visit magicalchildhood.com/wildkids to learn more.