Herbal First Aid for Large Groups
Northeast School of Botanical Medicine
7Song, Director
P.O.Box 6626, Ithaca, NY 14851
(607) 564-1023

Conditions You Are Likely to Encounter

- Allergies
- Altitude/Climate adjustments
- Animal bites/scratches
- Animal/Pet injuries, sickness
- Asthma
- Bleeding
- Burns
- Constipation
- Contagious diseases
- Diarrhea
- Drug overdose
- Dysentery
- Earache
- Emotional crises
- Eye irritation
- Fever/Chills
- Food poisoning
- Fractures
- Headache
- Heat exhaustion
- Hypochondria
- Infections (general)
- Injuries
- Insect bites/stings
- Menstrual disharmonies
- Nausea/Vomiting
- Pain (in various forms)
- Parasites
- People who have forgotten their prescription drugs
- People "too high"
- Plant dermatitises
- Rashes
- Respiratory impairment
- Seizures
- Shock
- Snake bite
- Staph infections
- Sunburn
- Tick, chiggers, lice, etc.
- Toothaches
- Wounds

Herbs That Can Be Commonly Gathered

- Alfalfa - Medicago sativa
- Bedstraw, Cleavers - Galium spp
- Bee balm - Monarda spp
- Beggar Ticks - Bidens spp
- Burdock - Arctium spp
- Catnip - Nepeta cataria
- Cattail - Typha spp
- Chaparral - Larrea spp
- Chickweed - Stellaria spp
- Cinquefoil - Potentilla spp
- Comfrey - Symphytum spp
- Cow Parsnip - Heracleum spp
- Dandelion - Taraxacum spp
- Docks - Rumex spp
- Gentian - Gentiana spp
- Geranium - Geranium spp
- Goldenrod - Solidago spp
- Gumweed - Grindelia spp
- Jewelweed - Impatiens spp
- Lobelia - Lobelia spp
- Mallow - Malva spp
- Meadowsweet - Spiraea spp
- Mint - Mentha spp
- Mugwort, Sagebrush - Artemisia spp
- Mullein - Verbascum thapsus
- Mustard - Barbarea/Brasica spp
- Nettles - Urtica spp
- Oatstraw - Avena spp
- Oshá - Ligusticum spp
- Pine - Pinus spp
- Plantain - Plantago spp
- Pysytoes - Antennaria spp.
- Ragweed - Ambrosia spp
- Raspberry, Blackberry - Rubus spp
- Red clover - Trifolium pratense
- Rose - Rosa spp
- St.Johnswort - Hypericum perforatum
- Shepherd's purse - Capsella bursa-pastoris
- Skullcap - Scutellaria spp
- Sumac - Rhus spp
- Vervain - Verbena spp.
- Witch hazel - Hamamelis virginiana
- Yarrow - Achillea millefolium
- Honey
- Licorice root
- Onions
- Salt
- Turmeric
- Urine
- Seaweed/Kelp
- Slippery elm lf, bk pdr/cap - Ulmus fulva
- Tobacco leaf - Nicotiana spp

Kitchen Herbs and Household Remedies

- Aloe
- Anise
- Basil
- Black pepper
- Cardamom
- Cayenne
- Cinnamon
- Cloves
- Coffee
- Fennel seed
- Garlic
- Ginger
- Garlic bb - Allium sativum
- Goldenseal pdr - Hydrastis canadensis
- Green or Black tea - Thea sinensis
- Guarana cap - Paulinia cupana
- Licorice rt & pdr - Glycyrrhiza uralensis, G.glabra
- Ma Huang - Ephedra sinensis, E.spp
- Marshmallow lf & rt - Althaea officinalis
- Oshá rt - Ligusticum spp
- Rhatany pdr - Krameria spp

Single Herbs for First Aid

Key: bk-bark; bb-bulb; cap-capsule; lf-leaf; pdr-powder; rt-root; sd-seed

- Cascara sagrada, cap - Rhamnus
- Cayenne pdr - Capsicum spp
- Chaparral lf - Larrea spp
- Comfrey lf & rt - Symphytum spp
- Fennel sd - Foeniculum vulgare
- Seaweed/Kelp
- Slippery elm lf, bk pdr/cap - Ulmus fulva
- Tobacco leaf - Nicotiana spp
Tinctures for First Aid - Single

Aconite - Aconitum columbianum
Ambrosia (Ragweed) - Ambrosia spp
Anemone - Anemone spp
Arnica - Arnica spp
Bayberry - Myrica spp
Betony - Pedicularis spp
Black cohosh - Cimicifuga racemosa
Blackberry root - Rubus spp
Calendula - Calendula officinalis
Cascara sagrada - Rhamnus pershiana
Chamomile - Matricaria chamomilla
Chaparro amargosa - Castela emoryi
Corydalis - Corydalis aurea
Cow parsnip - Heracleum spp
Echinacea - Echinacea spp
Eyebright - Euphrasia spp

Essential Oils, Homeopathics and Patent Medicines

Essential Oils
Clove
Eucalyptus
Lavender
Tea Tree
Tiger Balm
Wintergreen

Homeopathic Remedies
Apis Mel.
Arnica
Carbo Veg.
Nux Vomica
Rescue Remedy

Patent Medicines
Curing Pill - Upset stomach, food poisoning
Salonpas plasters - Topical rubifacient
Yin Chiao - Cold and Flu symptoms
Yunnan Paiyao - Hemostatic for internal and external bleeding

Accessories, Store Bought and Non-Herbal Items

Ace bandage
Acidophilus
Alcohol/Antiseptic wipes
Aloe Vera gel
Apple cider vinegar
Aspirin/Ibuprofen
Band-Aids
Batteries
Betadine (Povidone-iodine)
Black tea/Instant coffee
Books/resources
Candles
Castor oil
Charcoal powder, capsules
Clay
Clean cloth (rags)
Clean applicators
Cloth tea bags
Condoms
Cot (foldable)

Cotton balls
'Disposable' cups
Duct tape
Electrolyte replacement
Eye cup
Five gallon buckets
Flashlight/Headlight
Gauze pads
Gauze strips
Grapefruit seed extract
Honey
Hot water bottle
Hydrogen peroxide
Insect repellent
Instant cold pack
Irrigating syringe
Isopropyl alcohol
Jars to infuse tea
Lanterns
Matches/Lighter
Nail clippers
Non-adhesive dressing
Nuskin
Paper towels

Paper/pens
Plastic bags
Plastic gloves (disposable)
Pots to cook tea
Q-Tips
Razor blades (Lancet)
Scissors
Small containers
Smudge stick
Soap
Spirulina
Stretcher
String/rope
Sun block
Surgical tape
Tampons/Sanitary pads
Tarps
Throat lozenges
Toilet paper
Towel for hot compress
Toys/baubles-for children
Trash bags-heavy duty (medical waste)
Tweezers
Vitamins
Herbal Combinations and Formulas

**Tinctures**
- Acute Tonic - Echinacea, Goldenseal, Oshá, Horseradish, Poke
- Antiseptic Wash - Propolis, Myrrh, Goldenseal, Witch hazel
- Bitter Tonic - Wormwood, Yarrow, Blessed thistle, Calamus, Southernwood, Dandelion
- Cold and Flu - Echinacea, Baptisia, Oshá
- Decongestant Aid - Bidens, Lycium
- De-Stress - Damiana, Oatstraw, St.Johnswort, vervain, Rosemary, Lavender, Valerian
- Digestive Aid - Fennel seed, Marshmallow, Irish moss, Meadowsweet
- Echinacea and Goldenseal
- Garlic and Cayenne Vinegar
- Good Morning Tincture - Cola, Guarana, Black pepper, Schizandra, Cayenne, Vegetable glycerine
- Hormonal Vitality - Raspberry leaf, Dong quai, Vitex, Wild yam, Nettles, Hawthorne, Licorice, Cayenne, Vegetable glycerine
- Pain Relief Tincture - Passionflower, Meadowsweet, Valerian, Motherwort, St.Johnswort
- Peppermint Spirits - Peppermint essential oil, Alcohol
- Respiratory Tonic - Yerba santa, Mullein, Oshá, Grindelia
- Staph Dismissed - Chaparral, Licorice, Propolis, Witch hazel
- Tooth and Gum Tonic - Yerba manza, Echinacea, Goldenseal, Rhatany, Myrrh, Self-heal, Vegetable glycerine
- Un-Headache - Feverfew, Skullcap, Blue vervain, Chamomile, Valerian
- Warming Lung - Horehound, Elecampane, Wild cherry, Licorice, Ma huang, Ginger, Cayenne, Vegetable glycerine
- Wild Oat and Poppy

**Teas and Powders**
- Anti-Infection Tea - Chaparral, Thuja, Echinacea, Yerba manza, Yellow dock, Ceanothus, Goldenseal
- Composition Powder - Bayberry, Ginger, Cloves, Cayenne
- Nervine Tea Blend - Lemon balm, Skullcap, Oatstraw, German chamomile, Passionflower
- Nutritive Tea Blend - Nettles, Alfalfa, Red clover, Dandelion leaf, Oatstraw
- Tooth powder - Clay, Myrrh, Krameria
- Trikatu powder - powdered Black pepper, Long pepper, Ginger
- Pre-Asthma Tea - Oshá, Ma huang, Licorice
- Urinary Tract Tea - Juniper leaf/berry, Yarrow, Mallow, Uva-ursi

**Oils, Balm, Linament and a Syrup**
Key: EVOO - Extra Virgin Olive Oil; SSO - Sesame Seed Oil (raw); SAO - Sweet Almond Oil; BW - Bee’s Wax
- Arnica Oil - EVOO
- Arnica/St.Johnswort Oil - EVOO
- Big Kitty Balm - SSO, essential oils of Camphor, Tea tree, Eucalyptus, Cajeput, Wintergreen, Cinnamon, BW
- Bruise Salve - Arnica, St. Johnswort, Calendula, Vitamin E, EVOO, BW
- Dancing Oil - St.Johnswort, Arnica, Valerian, Vitamin E, essential oils of Tea tree and Wintergreen in EVOO
- Ear Oil - Mullein flower, Garlic, Vitamin E in EVOO
- Garden Salve - St.Johnswort, Calendula, Sage, Cleavers, Chickweed, Nettles, Comfrey, Vitamin E, EVOO, SAO, BW
- Healing Linament - Isopropyl alcohol, Myrrh, Goldenseal, Cayenne
- Healing Salve - Red clover, Chaparral, Goldenseal, St.Johnswort, Calendula, Sage, Tea tree essential oil, EVOO, BW
- Penetrating Massage Oil - Prickly ash, Yerba manza, Arnica, Chaparral, Valerian, Mustard seed, Henbane, Bittersweet nightshade, Lobelia, Cayenne, Wintergreen essential oil, EVOO, SSO
- Stimulating Massage Oil - Arnica, White sage, Prickly ash, Henbane, essential oils of Camphor, Wintergreen, Sweet orange, Cinnamon, Ginger and EVOO
- We Love Insects (but not too close) - Safflower oil and SAO with essential oils of Citronella, Cedar, Eucalyptus, Rosemary, Sassafrass, Pennyroyal, Lavender and Cajeput
- Cough Syrup - Elecampane, Horehound, Wild cherry, Lemon, Ginger & Horseradish in a honey base
### Selected Remedies

#### Pain
- Aconite
- Anti-anxiety agents
- Anti-inflammatories
- Black cohosh
- California poppy
- Clove essential oil
- Epipactus
- Kava-kava
- Lavender essential oil
- Lobelia
- Monatropa uniflora
- “Nervine Tea”
- Oatstraw
- “Pain Relief”
- Passionflower
- Pedicularis spp
- Silk tassel
- Skullcap
- St.Johnswort
- Topical rubefacients
- Valerian

#### Astringents
- Blackberry
- Docks
- Geranium
- Krameria
- Oak bark
- Rose
- “Tea” (Thea sp.)
- Bites, Stings
- Clay with herbs
- Echinacea - internal and external
- Onion - direct poultice
- Oshá - internal and external
- Plantain
- Remedies for pain
- Tobacco - spit poultice
- Burns
- Aloe vera, fresh
- Cold (ice, cold water, snow)
- Honey
- Lavender essential oil
- Monarda
- Remedies for pain

#### Allergic Responses and Asthma
- Ambrosia tincture
- Anti-anxiety remedies
- Echinacea
- Eucalyptus essential oil (steam)
- Eyebright
- Grindelia
- Lobelia tincture
- Ma Huang tea
- Nettles tea
- Oshá tea and tincture
- “Pre-Asthma tea”
- Anti-inflammatories
- Arnica
- Beggar’s ticks
- Birch
- Black cohosh
- Licorice
- Mallops
- Meadowsweet
- Poplar
- Spiraea
- Willow
- Wintergreen

#### Infections
- “Anti-infection Tea”
- “Antiseptic Wash”
- Chapparal
- Charcoal poultice
- Clay
- Conifer tree resins
- Echinacea
- Garlic
- Goldenseal
- Licorice
- Myrrh
- Oak bark
- Osha
- Propolis
- “Staph Dismissed”
- Tea tree oil
- Urine
- Usnea
- Witch hazel
- Yarrow
- Parasites (internal)
- “Anti-Infection tea”
- Artemesia spp
- Bitters
- Black walnut
- Chaparro amargosa
- Charcoal
- Garlic (raw)
- Grapefruit seed extract
- Slippery elm/ Oatmeal (as tea)
- Yarrow

#### Cuts & Wounds
- Antibacterials
- Anti-infectives
- “Antiseptic Wash”
- Arnica/St. John’s Wort oil
- Astringents
- Charcoal poultice
- Comfrey (Avoid putting comfrey powder or salve into deep wounds)
- Echinacea
- “Garden Salve”
- Goldenseal
- “Healing Linament”
- “Healing Salve”
- Hemostatics
- “Pain Relief”
- Propolis (wound adhesive)
- Remedies for pain
- Topical vulneraries
- “Tooth & Gum Tonic”
- Witch hazel
- Yarrow
- Digestive Upsets
- Acidophilus, Yogurt
- Bitters
- Charcoal
- Clay
- “Curing Pill”
- “Digestive Aid”
- Honey
- Peppermint Spirits in Water
- Trikatu
- Tea of: Fennel, Licorice, Ginger,
- Slippery elm, Mallow, Catnip,
- Chamomile and/or “Nervine
- Tea”
- Hemostatics
- Cayenne
- Shepherd’s Purse
- Yarrow
- Yunan paiyao

#### Poison Ivy and other Rhus dermatitises
1. Grindelia tincture - 40% tincture, internal and external
2. Yerba santa (Eriodictyon spp) 40% tincture
3. Slippery elm poultice
4. Clay (can add: Sea salt, Peppermint essential oil, Grindelia extract and/or water)
5. Jewelweed (Impatiens spp.) poultice
6. Avoid fatty and spicy foods
7. Nervine teas and tinctures
Considerations

1. Use disposable plastic/latex gloves, especially when encountering blood, mucous, saliva, pus or any open wounds.
2. Take care of yourself - take rest and immune strengthening herbs
3. Legalities - be aware of possible legal implications
4. Label everything clearly and carefully
5. Be cautious using remedies with infants, children and with pregnant and nursing women
6. Know your limits
7. Learn emergency phone numbers, the closest radio or telephone and nearby health care practitioners and doctors.
8. Know herbs for pain
9. Avoid powdered herbs in deep cuts
10. Learn to identify and use common first aid plants
11. Improvise as needed - Be inventive, but note #6
12. Cleanliness - Wash your hands often with soap and water. Have a separate bag for medical waste (use red tape to make a red cross on it). Check sanitary conditions of patients. Have just a few people administer the medicine so that messy hands are kept to a minimum (especially with salves and oils). Sterilize equipment.
13. Be instructive, but not condescending with patients, and teach prevention. Help them help themselves.
14. Organization of medicine saves a lot of time and frustration
15. Don’t forget to bring your own personal medications
16. Check first aid bag occasionally, to replenish empty medicines and check freshness
17. Learn how to take charge when needed and practice calmness. These two together promote a healing atmosphere
18. Have stimulant herbs on hand (ie; Guarana, Cola, Black and Green Tea, Coffee) for all-nighters
19. Learn to ‘volunteer’ people
20. Check for allergies, sensitivities and current medications before administering any treatments
21. Discriminate between acute and chronic disorders
22. Have plenty of good fresh water available
23. Rehydration fluid - 1 quart water, 1/2 tsp sugar, pinch of salt
24. Learn some triage skills
25. In a firm but friendly manner, let people know if they have communicable or contagious vectors (ie; staph, lice). Make efforts to minimize these problems spreading as early as possible
26. Know you fellow health care workers. Learn each others strengths. Work cooperatively
27. Before administering any internal medicines, initially check patients for any reactions by trying very small amounts

Books and Resources

Emergency First Aid books
Herbal Repertory in Clinical Practice, by Michael Moore
Identification guides for Poisonous Insects and Reptiles
National Dispensatory
Natural Remedies for Bites and Stings, by Peter Bigfoot
Plant field guides
Where There is No Doctor, by D. Werner
Wilderness medicine guides
Wilderness Medicine, edited by Paul Averbach
Your favorite Herb books