

Grundtvig Plant Wild - Wild Harvesting
training State of Art - LITHUANIA



**Wild harvesting training state of art
2nd meeting of PLANT WILD Grundtvig project**

Nature Research Centre

Institute of Botany

**The activity is supported by EU Lifelong Learning
Programme administrated by Lithuanian
national agency of Education Exchanges Support
Foundation**

Beginning...

- Investigations of medicinal plants in Lithuania were initiated in Botanical Garden of Vilnius University at the end of 18th century.
- In 1802 the first catalogue of Botanical garden was published which included descriptions of 1040 plants; 242 of them used as medicinal plants.
- Department of Medicinal Plants had been established by K. Grybauskas at the University of Vytautas Magnus in Kaunas in 1924.
- The investigations of medicinal plants at the Institute of Botany were started in 1959.

The harvesting of medicinal plants is an age-old tradition in Lithuania, especially in forested areas of south and south-eastern parts of the country.

The forests occupy about 32% of total land area:

- pine 38 %
- birch 22 %
- spruce 20 %
- other 20 %



Trade of MAP

The first enterprise for processing of raw material was established in 1883 in Švencionys which is one of the oldest herb processing plants in the Baltic region and Europe.

In soviet time the harvesting of MAP raw material was organized in secondary schools and public institutions; were many individual harvesters.

Trade in MAP

The re-establish of independence in 1990

Political and economic changes

Liberalization of the export-import

New private pharmaceutical companies

Structure of MAP used in pharmaceuticals

The Raw Material
Used in
Pharmaceuticals

Wild gathered
12-29 %

Imported
65-86%

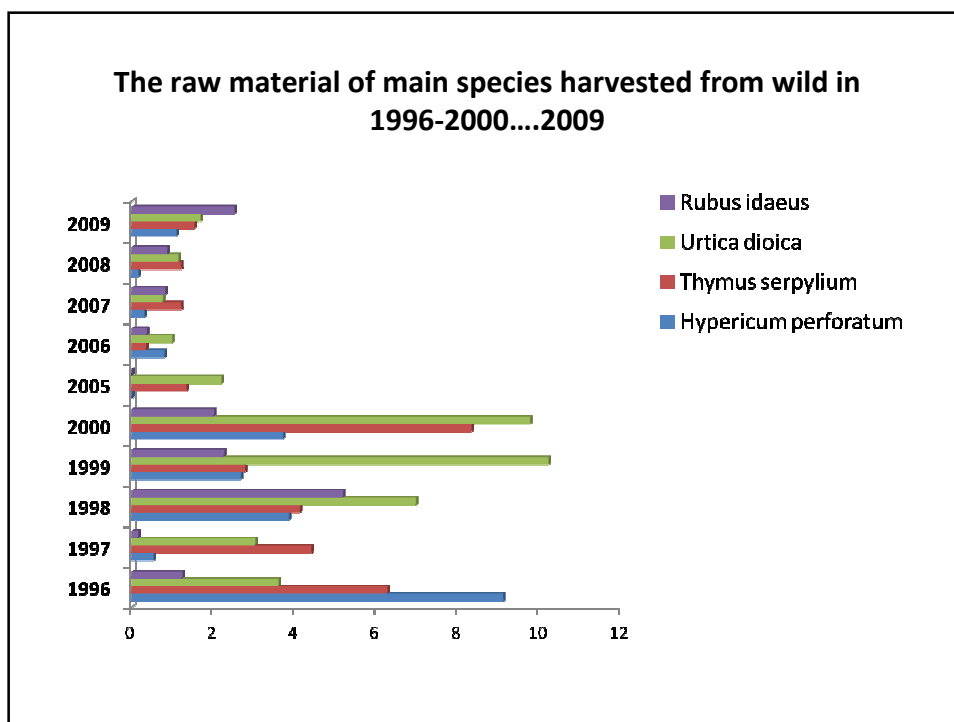
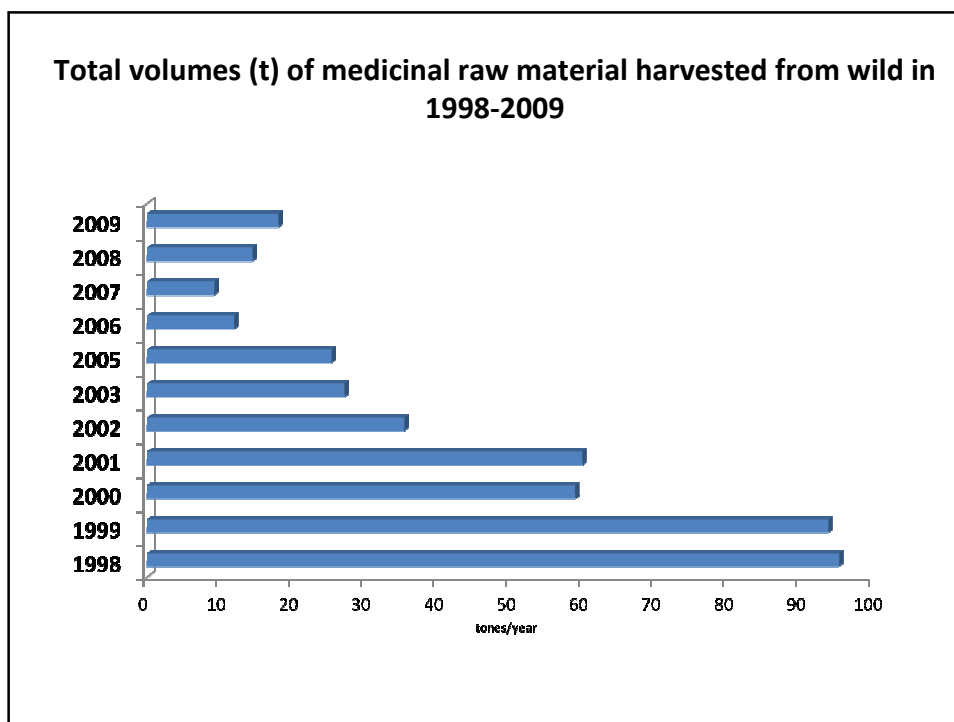
Cultivated
2-6 %

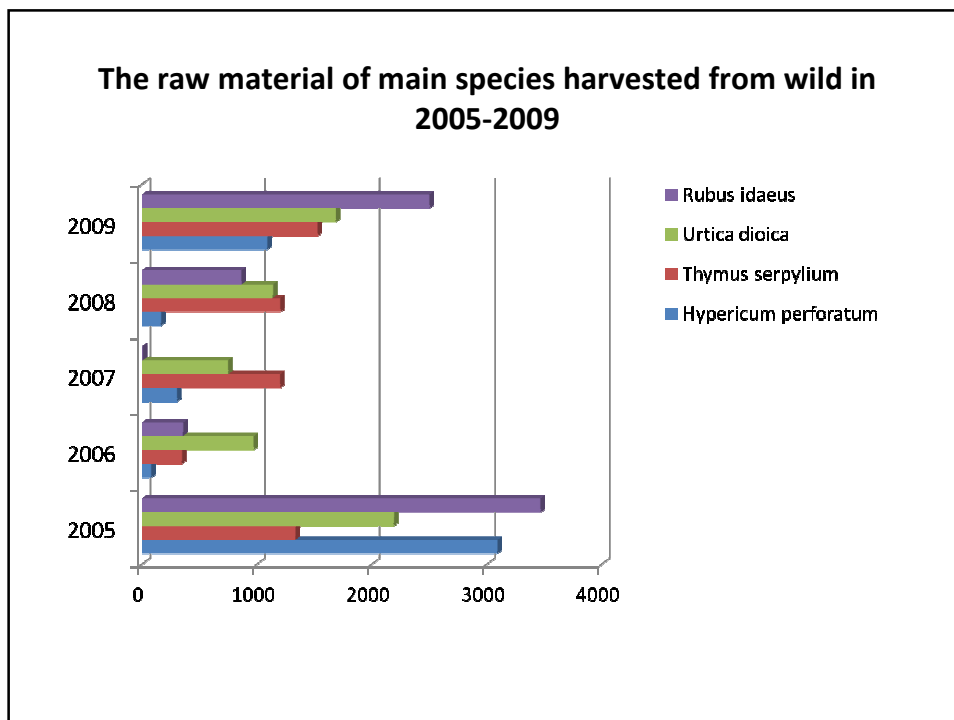
MAPs species

Out of the known 1400 species of vascular Lithuanian flora, 460 species have been considered as medicinal plants used in folk or traditional medicines and represent a relevant part of the natural biodiversity.

The native species of highest demand in phytomedicine

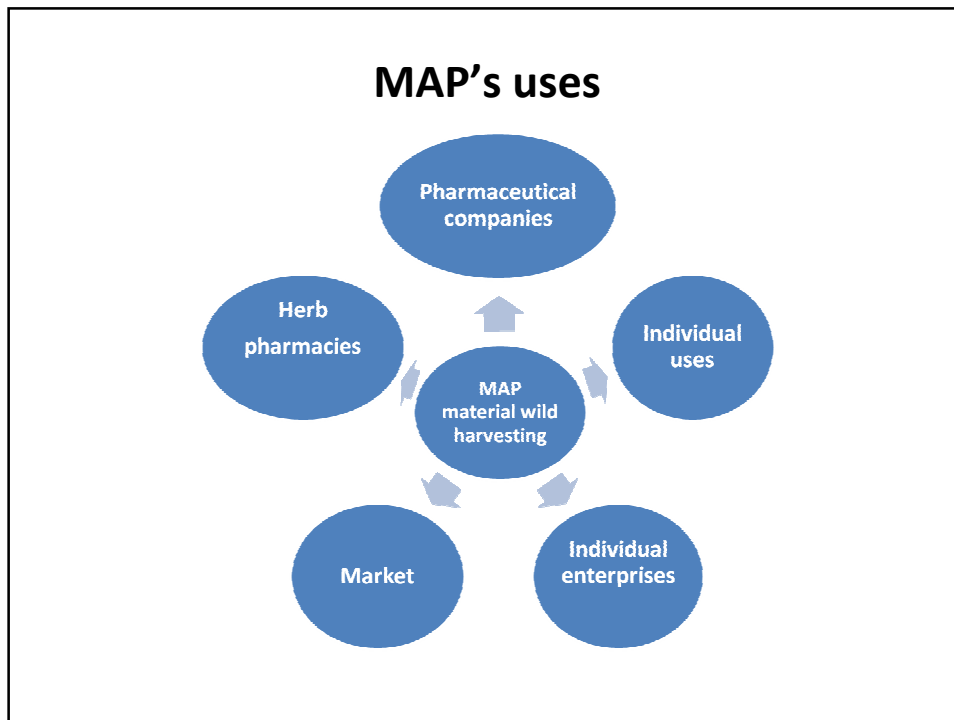
- *Crataegus* sp.,
- *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*,
- *Menyanthes trifoliata*,
- *Hypericum perforatum*,
- *Thymus serpyllum*,
- *Tussilago farfara*,
- *Polygonum aviculare*,
- *Urtica dioica*,
- *Frangula alnus*,
- *Cetraria islandica*
- *Achillea millefolium*
- *Betula pendula*
- *Rubus idaeus*
- *Tilia cordata*
- *Taraxacum officinale*
- *Artemisia absinthium*
- *Vaccinium vitis-idaea*





The trade in wild MAP is regulated by the following legislation

- **Law on Protected Areas (1993)**
- **Law on Endangered Wildlife (1996)**
- **Law on Wild Vegetation (1999; 2000)**
- **Law on PGR Conservation (2001)**



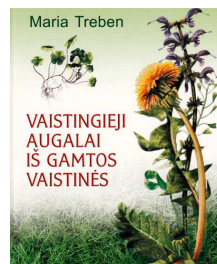
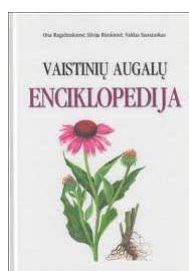
Native plants for individual use

- Based on the data of use reports respiratory ailments and gastrointestinal disorders form the largest groups of illnesses treated by medicinal plants.
- People collect plants which are easily recognizable and used for treatment of cough, fever or diarrhoea.
- The most popular plants used for these purposes are thyme, linden, raspberry, caraway and wormwood.
- Narrow assortment of plants harvested in wild is mainly limited by lack of the people's knowledge.

Training information and activities

- Books and websites
- Field collections of MAP
- Botanical garden expositions of MAP
- Summer holidays with herb markets
- Training seminars
- Training of harvesters by processors of wild medicinal plants

Books and websites



Number of MAP's taxons in collections in Lithuania

Owner	Family	Genus	Species
Institute of Botany	38	90	134
Vilnius University			
Kaunas Vytautas Magnus University	34	99	134
Klaipėda University	62	184	303
Šiauliai University			
Jadvyga Balvočiūtė ecofarm			

Botanical garden expositions



Training seminars



Seminars for collecting medicinal plant raw material in early spring organized at the Institute of Botany (2012 March-April)

Field collection of MAP's

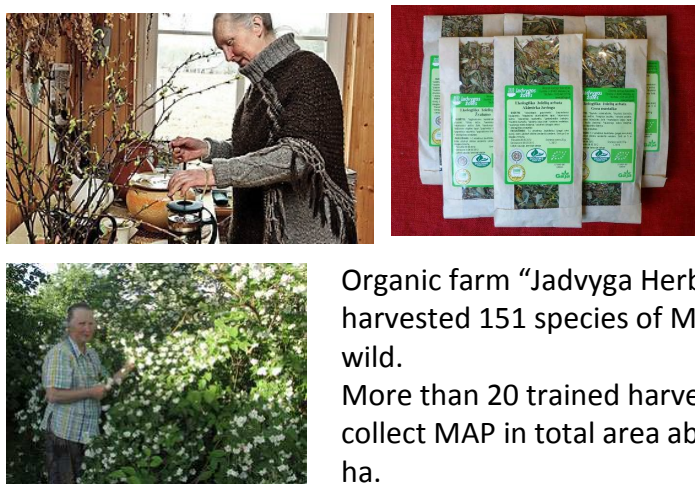


Summer holidays with herb markets



Feast of St John

Training of harvesters by processors used MAP



Organic farm “Jadvyga Herbs” harvested 151 species of MAP from wild. More than 20 trained harvesters collect MAP in total area about 7000 ha.



The Environmental Protection Agency 2007-2011 issued from 24 to 31 licenses for harvesting of wild plants every year.

One of institutions organizing the adults training for wild harvesting of plants is „Ekoagros”.
Every year “Ekoagros” gives about 20 certificates for harvesting ecological production of wild herbs, berries or mushrooms.

SWOT analysis on training of plants wild harvesting in Lithuania

Strengths	<p>Old traditions and scientifically based methodology for sustainable harvesting of wild MAP.</p> <p>The direct training of wild harvesting by processors of MAP</p>	Weaknesses	<p>Lack of the people’s knowledge on species and use of MAP.</p> <p>No unite system for training MAP wild harvesting</p>
Opportunities	<p>To initiate the local projects for adults training of wild plants harvesting</p>	Threats	<p>A real danger for over exploitation of wild populations or harvesting of endangered species</p>

