

# IPCI Ecological Medicine Harvesting Guidelines

## I) What does mature Peyote look like?

Peyote's maturity can be determined by the number of "ribs" that one button contains. A plant with **eight ribs and that is 2" in diameter or more** is considered mature and ready to be harvested.



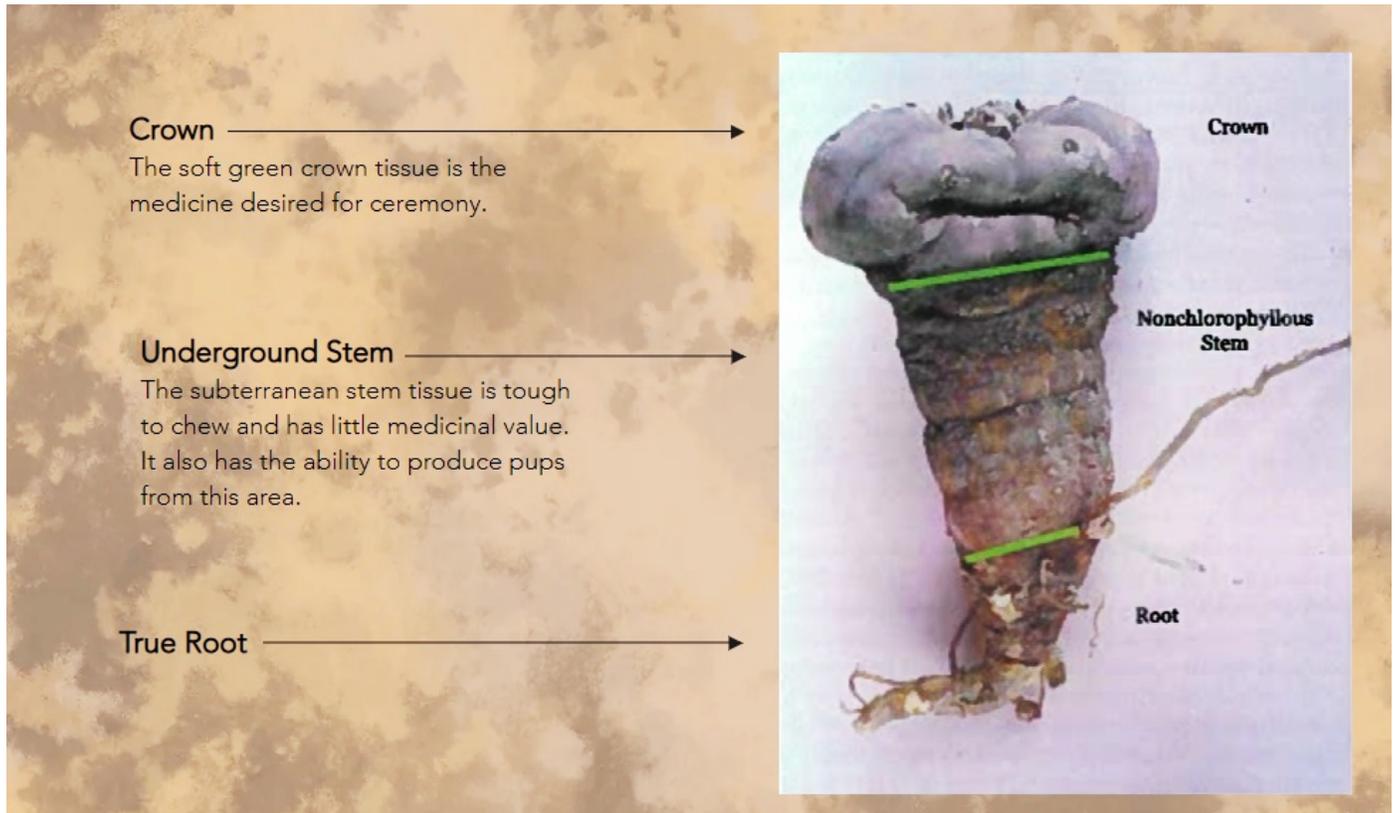
8 ribbed mature Peyote crown that can be harvested ecologically and has a good chance of regenerating (Walker 2022).



Example of a harvestable medicine. This one has 13 ribs and is well over 2" in diameter.

## II) Ecological Harvesting

Peyote should be harvested in a way that does not damage the root tissue of the plant. This ensures that the Peyote will regenerate after it has been harvested. **Overharvesting** occurs when areas are harvested too frequently, and Peyote is not allowed to mature between cycles resulting in damage to the plants over time, plant death, and smaller buttons for ceremonies.



Peyote Plant with root to illustrate the harvestable crown, and underground stem that must be left undamaged (IPCI.life 2022)



Proper harvesting technique where the Peyote is cut at ground level so as not to damage the tap root.

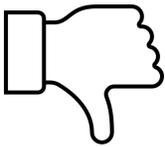


Properly harvested Peyote.

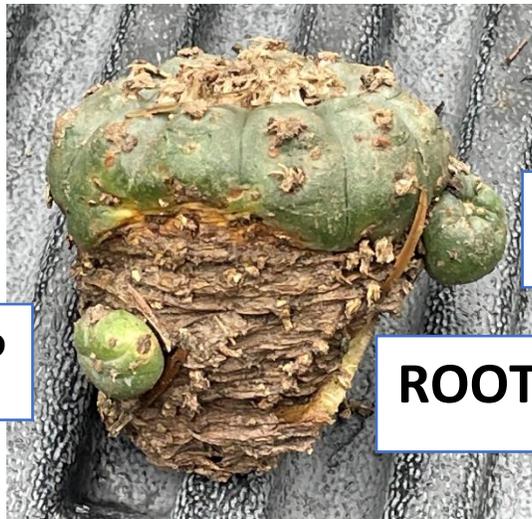
**Properly harvested Peyote can reproduce with two or more pups.**



**ROOT**



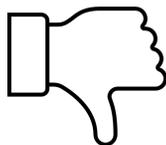
**DO NOT CUT BELOW THE CROWN AS SHOWN ABOVE**



**PUP**

**PUP**

**ROOT**



**DO NOT HARVEST PLANTS WITH PUPS**



### III) Ecological Harvesting Guidelines:

- 1) Harvesters should only pick plants that are at least,
  - two inches in diameter and
  - have eight ribs or more, like 10 or 13 ribs, with correct technique.

If a harvester follows these guidelines, it will ensure that the Peyote has the best chances of survival and regeneration. If a mature plant is harvested properly it should pup, meaning that it will regenerate two or more new crowns (buttons).

- 2) Peyote Families/Clusters **should be left in-tact**. Please take more time and walk farther to avoid harvesting these clusters and instead search for solitary plants with 8 ribs or more that are at least 2" in diameter. If you must harvest from a cluster, **only take crown from the OUTSIDE of a cluster and only take ONE per cluster. Clusters are less abundant than they used to be.**



Example of a complex family of large medicines. This illustrates how difficult it can be to harvest without damaging other members of the family.

- 3) Harvesters must have a partner or group. **NO HARVESTING ALONE.**
- 4) A total of **900 medicines** are allowed to be harvested over both harvest days. This means each individual person can harvest 30 medicines.
- 5) **Do Not Take Every Harvestable Plant.** It is important to retain diversity of the ages of plants in the wild. Taking every plant that is 8 or more ribs and 2 or more inches in diameter could negatively affect their ability to reproduce in the future.
- 6) **CONFIDENTIALITY**
  - Do not share location information of any of the medicine
  - Do not share ranch location where we are harvesting with anyone
  - Do not geotag any photos
  - Do not share your personal location with anyone.

**THIS IS TO ENSURE THE PROTECTION OF THE MEDICINE FROM POACHING AND TO ENSURE THE CONTINUATION OF OUR LEASE. OUR ACCESS COULD BE TERMINATED AT ANY TIME IF THESE RULES ARE VIOLATED.**

- 7) **Please send us your seeds and/or fluff when you have returned home and cleaned your medicine. This will help us to reseed the areas we harvest with seeds from that specific area.**

**Send Seeds and/or Fluff to:**

**IPCI  
826 N FM 649  
Hebbronville, Texas 78361**

#### **IV) Harvesting Spiritually:**

This is an opportunity to harvest Peyote in a way that is culturally and spiritually meaningful and relevant. Please consider this statement as our deepest encouragement for you to utilize the knowledge that has been handed down since time immemorial and to build upon it. Your elders/spiritual advisors will instruct you on giving offerings that are appropriate and will enable you to enter the gardens to harvest in alignment with spiritual harvesting practices.

## V) Harvesting Schedule and Logistics—

### HARVEST DAYS:

**Tuesday 03/21/2023 & Wednesday 03/22/2023**

- 1) Meet at 30 minutes after breakfast in front of Conservation House.
- 2) **5 cars maximum will be allowed!** Please line vehicles up in front of the Conservation House 30 minutes after breakfast
- 3) Follow IPCI staff to Harvest Location. The drive is 1.5 hours from the IPCI Conservation Ranch, please plan accordingly.
- 4) The harvest will last about one hour.
- 5) IPCI staff and Board Members will count all harvested plants at the end of each harvest day, in the field. This is to comply with the terms of our lease. We are collecting data including the number of ribs, diameter, and names and Tribal/NAC affiliation of harvesters. This information will remain confidential. Counting will take approximately one hour.