

**INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES
OF ALASKA
PLANT
GUIDE**

Ch'entq'ena

Species: *Cornus canadensis*

English Translation: "Bunchberry"

Bloom Season

May - September

Other Names

Used by all dialects

Meaning

'crunchy'

Uses

Edible, but not harvested due to lack of palatability



Ts'ink'nul'ay Kalajeta

Species: *Iris setosa*

English Translation: "Wild Iris"

Bloom Season

May - June

Other Names

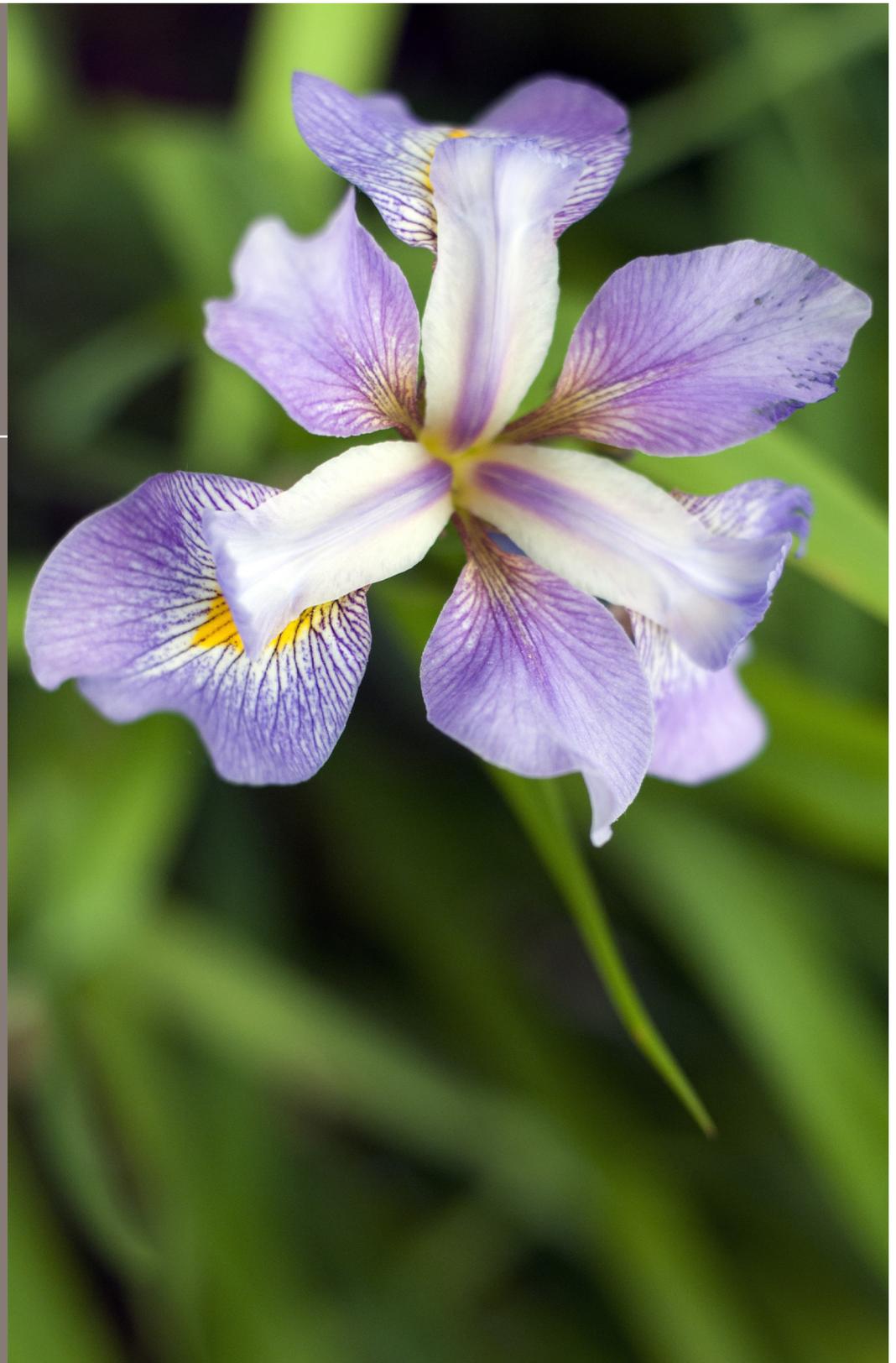
Used by all dialects

Meaning

'The arctic tern's fish-rack pole'

Uses

Chewing on rootstock for cold and sinus problems,
placed on sores for healing



Etyes

Species: *Betula nana*

English Translation: "Dwarf Birch"

Bloom Season

April - May

Other Names

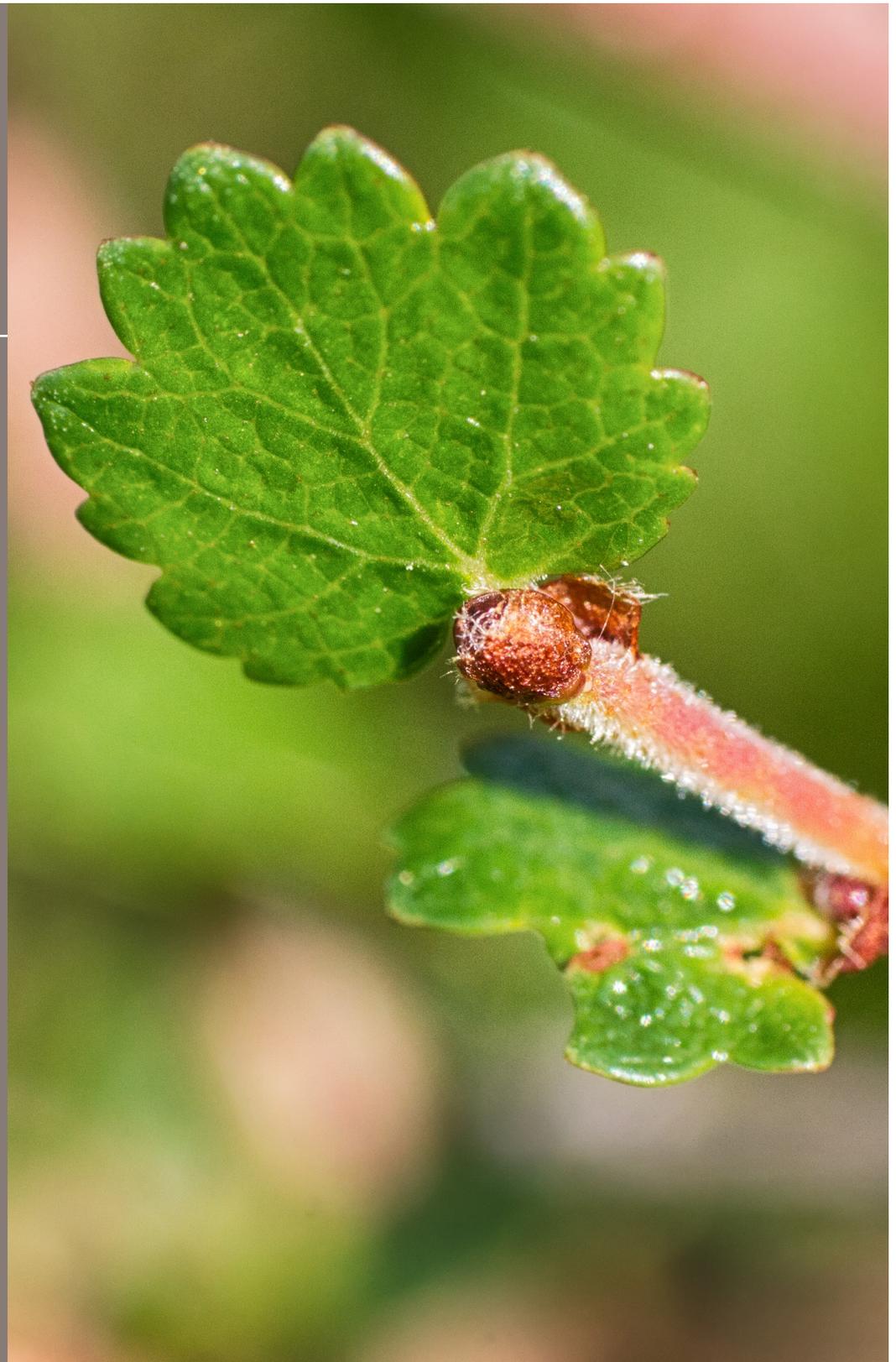
Used by all dialects

Meaning

'stem'

Uses

Used a barrier when laying meat and fish on the ground, or against clothing when carrying packed meat



Uh T'una

Species: *Matteuccia struthiopteris*
English Translation: "Ostrich Fern"

Bloom Season

N/A

Other Names

Uh (All dialects)

Meaning

Uh T'una 'stem and leaf'

Uh 'stem'

Uses

Fiddleheads have a variety of preparations as food; Inland Dena'ina use them to treat eye, kidney, and respiratory infections and to wash cuts



Uh T'una

Species: *Athyrium filix-femina*

English Translation: "Lady Fern"

Bloom Season

N/A

Other Names

Uh (All dialects)

Meaning

Uh T'una 'stem and leaf'

Uh 'stem'

Uses

Fiddleheads have a variety of preparations as food; Inland Dena'ina use them to treat eye, kidney, and respiratory infections and to wash cuts



Vetsiduuq' Zdluyi

Species: *Spiraea beauverdiana*

English Translation: "Alaska Spiraea"

Bloom Season

June - August

Other Names

Inland dialects only

Meaning

'On top are many things'

Uses

Firewood substitute where firewood is scarce



Heshkegh

Species: *Rosa acicularis*

English Translation: "Prickly Rose"

Bloom Season

June - July

Other Names

Hesh (Inlet/Nondalton and Iliamna dialects)

Heshkegh (Inlet/Lime Village, Outer Inlet, and Upper Inlet dialects)

Meaning

heshkegh 'thorn-big'

hesh 'thorn'

Uses

The fruit of the rose, or rosehip, may be used for tea; branches are boiled with water to make a tea to treat colds, fever, and stomach troubles



Heshkegh Ka'a

Species: *Oplopanax horridus*

English Translation: "Devil's Club"

Bloom Season

July

Other Names

Hesh (Inlet and Iliamna dialects)

Heshkeghka'a, Heshkegh ka'a (Outer and Upper Inlet)

Meaning

Heshkegh Ka'a 'thorn-big big'

Heshkegh 'thorn-big'

Uses

Branches, stems, roots, or root's inner bark may be boiled with water for a tea used to treat many illnesses; root's inner bark may be pounded into to powder put on swollen glands and boils to draw out infection



Q'ey

Species: *Betula papyrifera*

English Translation: "Paper Birch"

Bloom Season

April

Other Names

Q'ey (Upper Inlet dialect)

Chuq'eya (Outer Inlet dialect)

Q'eytsay (Inlet and Iliamna dialects)

Meaning

'stem'

Uses

Birch wood is used to make baskets, snowshoes, drum frames, armor, fish traps; bark used to make dye, as tarps, hats; sap used for food and as a salve



K'ela Tl'ila

Species: *Linnaea borealis*

English Translation: "Twinflower"

Bloom Season

June - September

Other Names

Outer Inlet dialect only

Meaning

'mouse's rope'

Uses

No documented uses



Compiled from a variety of sources and with guidance from Allison Kelliher, MD.