

*August 2024*

# WILD KIDS

SEASONAL NATURE EDUCATION FOR KIDS & THEIR GROWN UPS

**Make Sun Prints  
from Wild Plants**

**Make Your Own  
Charcoal Sticks**

**August Nature  
Photo Prompts**

**Daylilies &  
Wineberries 101**

**Seasonal poems,  
activities, nature journal  
pages and more!**



# From the editor

BY ALICIA BAYER

## Hella August!

The summer has really been going by fast, hasn't it?

This month, our son Alex will be coming home from from his five weeks spent working in the wilderness with other teens. He has been in state parks and Native American reservations in Wisconsin and Minnesota and has really enjoyed it. I'm sure he's learned lots of new outdoor skills too, plus made friends and made some money! I can't wait to have him back home and hear lots of stories!

We have been busy with lots of our own wild adventures. We have been doing lots of kayaking, gardening, foraging, hiking, swimming and making lots of nature art like anthotypes (plant-dyed prints with the sun) and charcoal from grapevines. We have instructions on how to do both of those in this month's issue of Wild Kids.

Pretty soon we'll be harvesting lots of apples for home canned applesauce. Some years we "put up" 70 quart jars to eat all year. It will also be the season here for elderberries, wild grapes, pears and lots more.

We'll also be picking pokeberries -- but only for the beautiful ink and dye, not for eating as they are poisonous! I always look forward to doing art with pokeberries all year though, because the ink is so beautiful and fun to work with (here's a picture of a journal done in pokeberry ink by a wonderful artist named Abigail Halpin.



What are you hoping to do in nature this month? I hope wherever you are, that you have a wonderful wild 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

Fill a jar with one pretty or cool rock that you collect each day this month

Make charcoal sticks from willow branches or grapevines in a tin in a campfire (we teach you how in this issue)

Download the iNaturalist app and start cataloging your nature discoveries

Bundle some dried hollow stems like dock stems in a corner of the yard to make pollinator houses

Try making anthotype prints from plant colors and the sun (we have instructions in this issue)

Watch for the Perseid meteor shower late at night — it peaks on August 12 this year

Have someone trace your shadow in the morning, noon and evening, and see if it changes

Before it rains, make a picture with washable markers or watercolors, then put it outside for the rain to alter

Bury a piece of paper, a piece of plastic and a leaf and then dig them up at the end of the month to see if they have changed

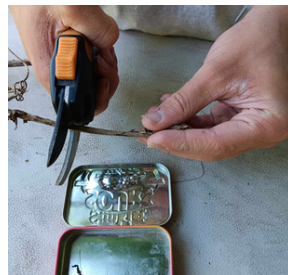
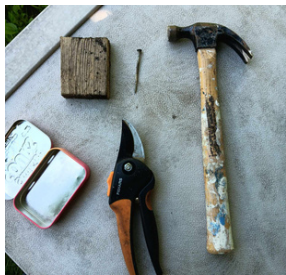
Go to an outdoor festival, concert or other event

# Make a Your Own Charcoal Sticks!



Did you know that you can make your own charcoal sticks for drawing? Many artists say the best charcoal is made from willow branches, but you can also use vines like grapevine or any small sticks like dogwood or honeysuckle.

All you do is get a small tin like an Altoids tin and poke some holes in it so smoke can escape. Then pack it with lengths of grapevine or sticks that are all about the same width and length and shut it tightly.



Now build a fire and once it's nice and hot, have a grown up put your tin in the hot coals (or put it in first and build the fire around it). Wait now -- about an hour or more. Enjoy the fire and keep an eye on it until it has started smoking out the holes and then stopped. After that, wait for your fire to cool down and have a grown up carefully move the tin someplace to finish cooling. It will be hot for a long time, so be patient!



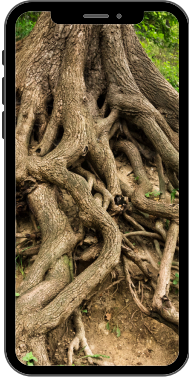
Once it's cool, open up your tin and you'll find your new charcoal sticks to draw with! You can wrap the ends with strips of cloth or masking tape to keep your fingers from getting black. Have fun!



# August

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

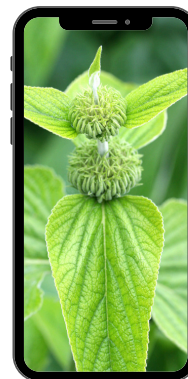
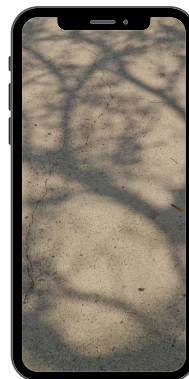
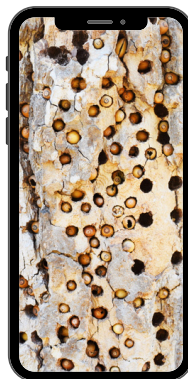
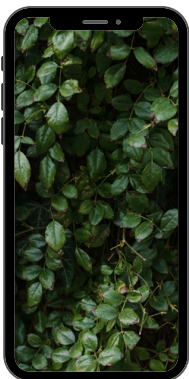
## Nature Photo Challenge



- 1 Starts with S
- 2 Roots
- 3 Old
- 4 Three
- 5 Pink
- 6 Lonely
- 7 Broken
- 8 Fruit
- 9 Antennae
- 10 Balanced

- 11 Fuzzy
- 12 Yellow
- 13 Oval
- 14 Shadow
- 15 Smooth
- 16 Black & white
- 17 Circles
- 18 Sky
- 19 Secret
- 20 Triangular

- 21 Fluffy
- 22 Eaten
- 23 Invasive
- 24 Native
- 25 Vine
- 26 Wet
- 27 Leaves
- 28 Poisonous
- 29 Rough
- 30 Insect
- 31 Symmetrical



# Making Anthotype Prints from Wild Plants

Have you ever heard of anthotype prints? Many people have played with making cyanotype prints with special paper that is treated with a chemical so it makes blue prints of items when you put them in the sun.



Those are based on the historic use of anthotype prints (also called nature prints). The word anthotype is from two Greek words **anthos (flower)** and **typos (imprint)**. They are made by spreading photosensitive (easily affected by the sun or light) pigments or colorful material from plants onto paper, covering them with something you want to make a print of, and then leaving them in the sunlight.



If you want to see some great anthotypes that people have done, [AlternativePhotography.com](http://AlternativePhotography.com) hosts World Anthotype Day every year and anyone is welcome to take part. This year, it is on August 3 and people will post pictures of their anthotypes on social media like Instagram. They also post them to the website. Some of the artists who take part in World Anthotype Day use anthotypes to print photographs, which are really cool too! In 2023 over 130 artists sent in their anthotypes using pigments from 100 plants. You can look at all of theirs online to get ideas about what you'd like to try. Their website tells you everything each artist did and what they used.

## Lamb's quarter (*Chenopodium album*) anthotype by Nicole Duprée

August 17, 2023  
 "You Belong Here" by Nicole Duprée  
 Country: Philadelphia, PA, USA  
 Parts used: Stem and leaves  
 Amount: Handful for each print  
 Extracted by: Blender  
 Thinner: Isopropyl alcohol  
 Application: Dipping



Layers: 2  
 Substrate: Reclaimed music practice book page  
 Created with: Photograph of lamb's quarter plant  
 Exposure: 1 day, June, summer 2023  
 Contrast: (M) (Medium)  
 Additional information: Created in the window of the Dunu Camper during the 2023 Summer Micro-residency at the Open Kitchen Sculpture Garden in Philadelphia, PA. Air conditions in Philly were poor this week with smoke from Canadian forest fires, yet the print came out surprisingly well!  
 Instagram: @indigo.in.green  
 Facebook: facebook.com/ampersandTeaTie  
 Website: indigoingreen.com



## Black swallow wort (*Vincetoxicum luteicocum*) anthotype by Anne Eder

August 20, 2023  
 "Black Swallow wort" by Anne Eder  
 Country: Lowell, MA, USA  
 Parts used: Leaves  
 Amount: 3-4 cups  
 Extracted by: Blender  
 Thinner: Alcohol, vodka  
 Application: Brushing



Layers: 3  
 Substrate: Hahnemühle Platinum Rag  
 Created with: OHP negative  
 Exposure: 4 weeks, windowill, summer 2023  
 Contrast: (M) (Medium)  
 Challenges or observations: A bit sticky due to milky sap, nothing that can't be overcome.  
 Additional information: This year, I have been concentrating on using invasive plant species. Black swallow wort is very invasive here in MA. It can grow up to eight feet in one summer and engulf whole areas of landscape. It is in the midweed family, but so toxic to monarch butterflies and kills them. The nearly black, sugar-dusted looking flowers are actually quite beautiful, but this plant is a thug!  
 Instagram: @darkflower  
 Facebook: facebook.com/anneeder.12  
 Website: anneeder.com



## Mulberry, black (*Morus nigra*) anthotype by Jen Perena

August 12, 2023  
 "Mulberry Photograph" by Jen Perena  
 Country: Rochester, NY, USA  
 Parts used: Berries  
 Amount: Handful for each print  
 Extracted by: Mortar  
 Thinner: Alcohol (vodka, 40%)  
 Application: Brushing



Layers: 5  
 Substrate: Watercolour paper  
 Created with: Photograph of mulberry tree leaves  
 Exposure: 10 hours over 2 days, July, summer, 2023  
 Contrast: (M) (Medium)  
 Challenges or observations: After the third coat, the emulsion took much longer to dry; even after it appeared dry, it was not easy to apply the 4th coat evenly, so some of the brush strokes are visible. By the 5th coat, it felt quite thick and almost sticky. I used the actual leaves of the mulberry tree for the photograph; I love their shape, no two being the same. The chemical properties of the leaves may have impacted the resulting image; the colour in the blocked areas under the leaves is almost black, much darker than the original, lovely monsoon colour after 5 coats. I tried this also with vinegar as the thinner, but the acid seems to cause the color to really fade away quickly.  
 Additional information: I just learned about anthotypes earlier this summer, and since then have been experimenting with single-atom emulsions, layering the emulsions to get a good contrast. But I have been practicing alternative historic processes for over 15 years, most of which are black and white, with hand coloring to bring color back into them. Now I'm excited to see how I might combine these with other processes, like kallitype, to create really unique pieces. I will submit an anthotype to a photo exhibition in Rochester NY this fall. I will place the anthotype next to a digital print of the scanned anthotype, and then display it under UV protected glass to see how the original anthotype changes over the course of the exhibit.  
 Instagram: @kallitypegit  
 Website: kallitypegit.com



## Black Grape (*Vitis vinifera*) + Geranium (*pelargonium*) anthotype by Lökidore Laurence

August 21, 2022  
 "Love is Hope" by Lökidore  
 Country: France  
 Parts used: Grape skin and geranium petals  
 Application: Brushing  
 Exposure time: 3 days including 1 with sun and 2 with mixed weather  
 Month, season and year: August, summer, 2022  
 Substrate: Watercolour paper 300gsm2  
 Contrast of final print: \*\* (Medium)



Amount: The skin of 30 grapes and 10 geranium flowers (+ water and alcohol) for about 3 pictures  
 Extracted using: Cooking  
 Thinner: Tap water and alcohol  
 Layers: 5  
 Used to create image: Laser printed OHP positive  
 Challenges or observations: Boiling helps to get the purple colour. Geranium added some vividly.  
 Instagram: @lokidore\_laurence  
 Facebook: Lökidore Laurence



## Blackcurrant (*Ribes nigrum*) anthotype by Tommy Hurtig

August 20, 2022  
 "I hope in afterlife" by Tommy Hurtig  
 Country: Sweden  
 Parts used: Berry  
 Application: Brushing  
 Exposure time: 2 weeks  
 Month, season and year: August, summer, 2022  
 Substrate: watercolour paper  
 Contrast of final print: \*\* (Low)



Amount: 15 grams  
 Extracted using: Mortar  
 Thinner: None  
 Layers: 2  
 Used to create image: Laser printed OHP positive  
 Challenges or observations: I developed two prints at the same time, one in a glass frame and one in a plastic frame. The plastic frame did not develop at the same speed. I can only assume there are different optical properties between glass and plastic, like surface reflection or UV protection that makes glass much better than plastic.  
 Instagram: @tommyhurtigxyz  
 Additional info: The weather was a mix of cloudy and sunny and the print was exposed both indoors and outdoors.



## Winter Puralane (*Claytonia perfoliata*) anthotype by Genevieve Rudd

August 20, 2022  
 "Claytonia and Rose" by Genevieve Rudd  
 Country: UK  
 Parts used: Leaf and stem  
 Application: Brushing  
 Exposure time: 2 days  
 Month, season and year: March, spring, 2021  
 Substrate: Watercolour paper  
 Contrast of final print: \*\* (Medium)



Amount: A handful for each print  
 Extracted using: Mortar  
 Thinner: White vinegar  
 Layers: 2  
 Used to create image: Photograph of rose petals  
 Challenges or observations: Claytonia leaves are liquid-rich already, so only add a little thinner  
 Instagram: @geneviev Rudd  
 Facebook: @geneviev Rudd



**It's easy to make your own anthotypes!** Simply crush petals, berries or leaves and spread the “paint” from it onto a piece of paper. If you like, you can add a bit of water (some people add a splash of vinegar or alcohol for brighter colors). You can paint it onto the paper multiple times, too, if you want a darker base color. Just let it dry between each coat. Then lay something natural on the paper like a leaf, a feather or a flat flower. Cover it with a piece of glass (glass from a thrift store picture frame works well, or an old window) and leave it in the sunlight. Be sure to protect it from moisture, as it can alter your artwork (though I kind of like how it enhances the art sometimes!). You can do this inside in a sunny window too.



Check your anthotypes every few hours or every day and peek very carefully underneath until the paper looks like it is either really faded or that it has changed colors a lot from the sun.

The tricky part about making anthotypes is that some plant dyes will fade very quickly and they are great for this, but some of them don't fade much and take days or weeks to do! This maple leaf anthotype was made with sour cherry juice and took only two hours in bright noon sun to make. Some people on the World Anthotype Day page say their prints took months!



When we play with plant dyes, paints, and inks, we use the ones that fade really fast for anthotypes. If they don't fade much, we know they will make great inks and paints instead.

This year's theme for Wild Kids is invasive plants, and there are many plants that are listed as invasive species in some areas that make great anthotypes if you want to pull them and do something fun with them (remember that what's invasive in one place may be native and wanted in another though!). Some of these include: creeping bellflower, black swallow wort, wineberries, fireweed, lily of the valley, mulberries and woad.

Once you've made your anthotypes, keep them safe in a scrapbook or someplace protected from the sun. You can also use them to make cards to send to people, or you can just take pictures to record how they looked.

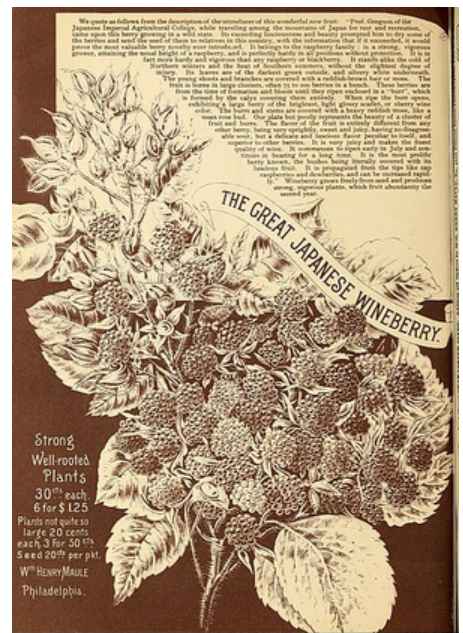
# Wineberry/Dewberry (*Rubus phoenicolasius*)

Japanese wineberries grow in lots of places around Europe, the United States and Canada. They are also known as wine raspberries or dewberries. They are a species of raspberry in the rose family that are native to China, Japan and Korea.

People brought wineberries to Europe and North America as an ornamental (decorative) garden plant and because they can be used to breed hybrid raspberries. They escaped cultivation and have become invasive in some places, especially in the Northeast United States and the Appalachian Mountains.

Wineberries can often be found along the edges of fields, open woods, stream banks and roadsides. They are edible, with no poisonous look-a-likes in North America. They are sweet and tart, and you can use them the ways you'd use raspberries (fresh, in pies, in jellies, and so on).

Wineberries can be plant bullies that push out native plants and they can change landscapes of things like forests when they take over. They are listed as a noxious weed in states like Connecticut and New York where it's against the law to sell or grow them. In other places they are not banned, but people need to be careful not to let them take over wild spaces.





# JAPANESE WINEBERRIES

(*Rubus phoenicolasius*)

J. T. Lovett Co.—Wineberry—*Elmagnus Longipes*.

## CHILDS' GREAT JAPANESE WINEBERRY.

The introduction of this beautiful and valuable novelty has excited an immense amount of interest and the Wineberry itself fully deserves all the praise that has been given it both as an ornamental plant and for the refreshing sub-acid quality of its fruit.

The canes of this interesting plant are large, robust, and perfectly hardy; they are thickly covered with purplish-red hairs, which extend along the stem to its extremity. The leaves are large, tough, dark green above and silvery gray beneath. Each berry is at first tightly enveloped by the large calyx, forming a sort of burr, which is also covered with purplish-red hairs so thickly as to present the appearance of moss rose buds. These gradually open and turn back, exposing the fruit in all its beauty. The berries are of medium size as compared with our raspberries, but of a beautiful, translucent appearance, running through all the shades of amber to crimson as they ripen. There is a freshness and brilliancy about them impossible to describe, and we know of nothing in the way of raspberries so attractive. A bush in full fruiting is a sight not readily to be forgotten and a decided ornament to the garden. In quality it is good, with a rich and sprightly flavor, but decidedly brisk sub-acid. When cooked it is simply grand; surpassing by far when canned the Huckleberry and all other small fruits. For jelly making it is without an equal, far exceeding for this purpose the Currant, Quince and Crab Apple. Season of ripening, at Monmouth, early in July.



John Lewis Childs says of it: "Another season's trial and a general introduction has proved that this grand new fruit is the greatest novelty of the age. It is universally conceded that it is one of the most valuable introductions of this generation, and it will be generally grown the world over." Strong plants, ea., 25c; doz., \$2.50; 100, \$15.00. Transplanted, ea., 50c; doz., \$5.00; 100, \$25.00. (By mail if desired at prices named. When sent by express larger plants will be selected.)

# Daylilies

(*Hemerocallis fulva*)



Daylilies cause a lot of arguments among plant lovers these days!

Some people say they're invasive plants that should all be pulled. Other people say they're beautiful garden plants that spread wonderfully in their own gardens and also happen to be delicious.

Who's right? It depends on where you live and how you feel.

Daylilies are originally from Asia and in places like the U.S. and Europe they are non-native and they can be invasive. Invasive.org says:

"Daylilies established in natural areas pose a threat to native plants in field, meadows, floodplains, moist woods and forest edges. Once established, daylily multiplies and spreads to form dense patches that displace native plants. The thick tubers make it a challenge to control."

On the other hand, many people forage daylilies and love them. Lots of gardeners also plant them in their gardens and love them there.

If you decide to forage daylilies, do lots of research first! Remember that lots of plants are called lilies that are not related to daylilies! Some plants like lily of the valley have 'lily' in the name but they're in a totally different family and are poisonous. Other lilies are hybrids and we don't know enough about them to know how edible they are.

What's your vote on daylilies?



DAY LILY  
(*Hemerocallis fulva*)

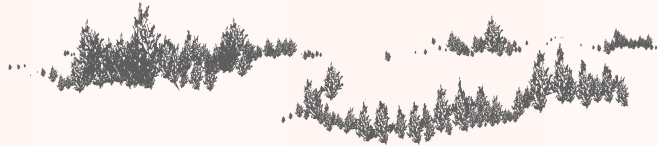


# August Poetry



August  
by Annette Wynne

August days are hot and still,  
Not a breath on house or hill,  
Not a breath on height or plain,  
Weary travelers cry for rain;  
But the children quickly find  
A shady place quite to their mind;  
And there all quietly they stay,  
Until the sun has gone away,—  
August is too hot for play!



**August Night**  
by Elizabeth Madox Roberts

**We had to wait for the heat to pass,  
And I was lying on the grass,**

**While Mother sat outside the door,  
And I saw how many stars there were.**

**Beyond the tree, beyond the air,  
And more and more were always there.**

**So many that I think they must  
Be sprinkled on the sky like dust.**

**A dust is coming through the sky!  
And I felt myself begin to cry.**

**So many of them and so small,  
Suppose I cannot know them all.**

An August Wood Road  
by Sir Charles George Douglas Roberts

When the partridge coveys fly  
In the birch-tops cool and high;

When the dry cicadas twang  
Where the purpling fir-cones hang;

When the bunch-berries emboss—  
Scarlet beads—the roadside moss;

Brown with shadows, bright with sun,  
All day long till day is done

Sleeps in murmuring solitude  
The worn old road that threads the wood.

In its deep cup—grassy, cool—  
Sleeps the little roadside pool;

Sleeps the butterfly on the weed,  
Sleeps the drifted thistle-seed.

Like a great and blazing gem,  
Basks the beetle on the stem.

Up and down the shining rays  
Dancing midges weave their maze.

High among the moveless boughs,  
Drunk with day, the night-hawks drowse.

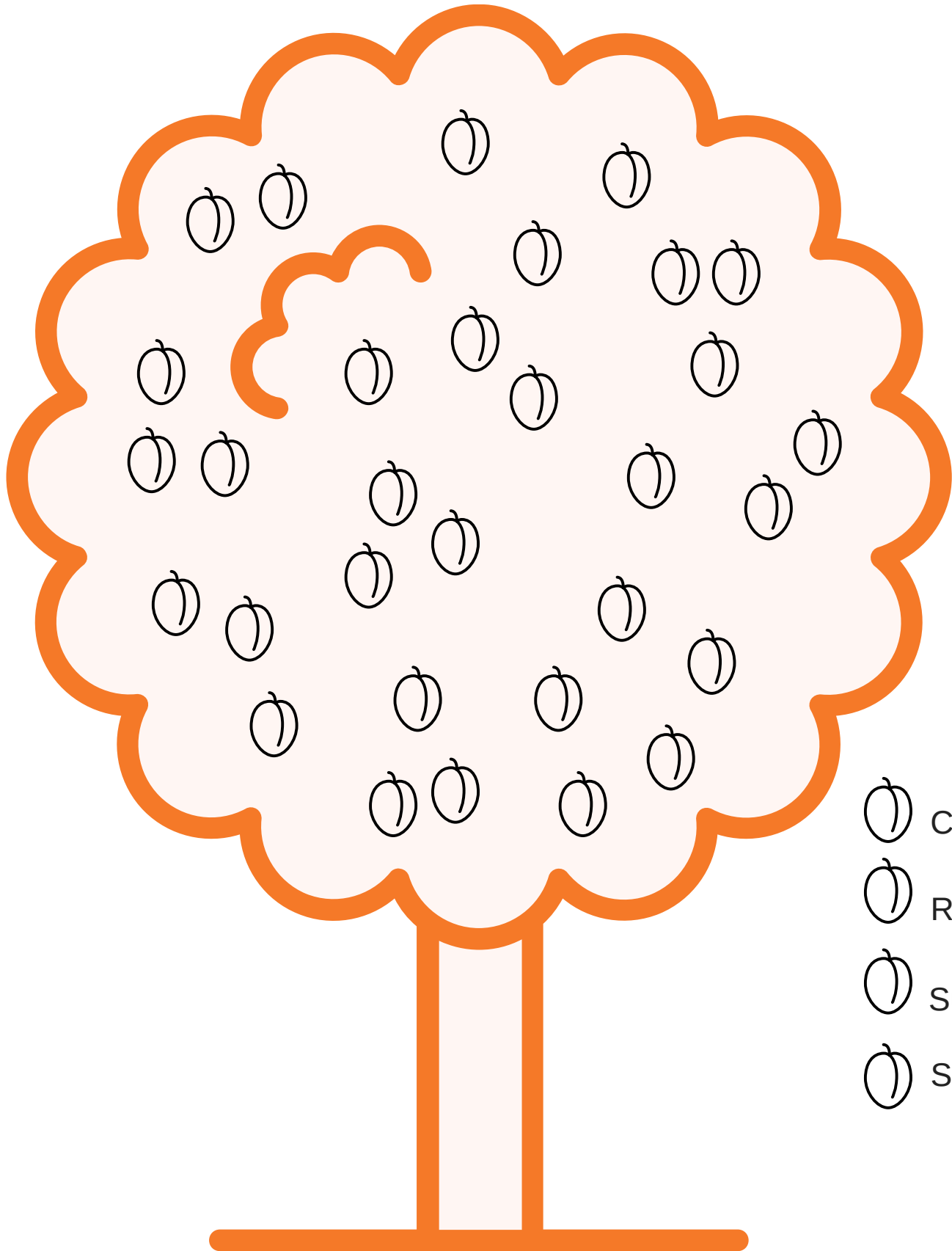
Far up, unfathomably blue,  
August's heaven vibrates through.

The old road leads to all things good;  
The year's at full, and time's at flood.

# 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:

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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](https://magicalchildhood.com/wildkids) to learn more.