

# The Kalapuya: Harvest

Title bar photo: Mollala Longhouse  
Provided by The Confederated Tribes  
of Grand Ronde

## A Seasonal Way of Life

The Kalapuya lives changed, with the seasons. Throughout the winter, they inhabited permanent villages along rivers. In the spring, they would travel to where they knew specific crops were ready for harvesting and where fish and animals were available to hunt. During the summer and fall, the Kalapuya would travel to different locations, always returning their harvests to their permanent, riverside villages for the winter.

## Plants and Harvest

The Kalapuya utilize native plants for an array of purposes, such as; sustenance, medicine, ceremony, building materials, and aesthetic enhancements. Listed below are several of these plants, as well as the season in which they are harvested.

■ Fall 
 ■ Winter 
 ■ Spring 
 ■ Summer 
 ■ All Seasons



**Blackberry**  
*Rubus ursinus*  
Berry (fruit)



**Camas**  
*Camassia spp.*  
Bulb



**Cattails**  
*Typha spp.*  
Leaves



**Hazelnut**  
*Corylus spp.*  
Nut (seed)  
Branches



**Huckleberry**  
*Vaccinium spp.*  
Berry (fruit)



**Oregon Grape**  
*Berberis aquifolium*  
Berry (fruit)



**Oregon White Oak**  
*Quercus garyanna*  
Nut (seed)



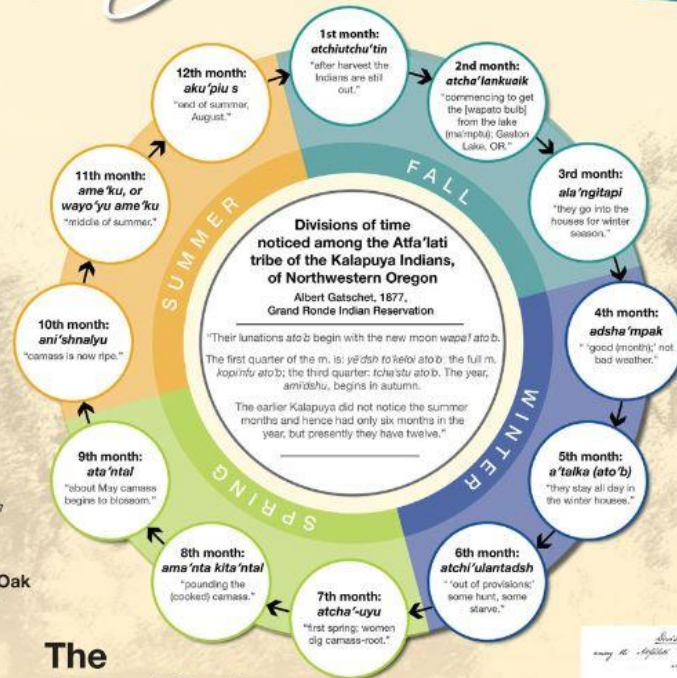
**Spruce**  
*Picea spp.*  
Roots



**Wapato**  
*Sagittaria latifolia*  
Bulb



**Western Red Cedar**  
*Thuja plicata*  
Bark & wood



Blue Camas Flower



Wapato Flower



Tarweed Flower



Photo provided by:  
The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde

### Eliza Young (c.1820-1923): A woman of skill and art

Eliza Young was born in the Mohawk Valley. Her parents died in the 1830s, likely of introduced disease. Jacob Spores, an early settler to the area, took Eliza in and raised her in the Coburg area.

Eliza harvested traditional berries and materials for weaving throughout her life. She would sell the berries and woven baskets to the people in Brownsville, where she had settled. The very neat and intelligent Eliza would also take on odd jobs and housework from the neighboring settlers. Later in her life she went blind yet continued to harvest weaving materials and make baskets on the porch of her house (shown). Her specialty was purses. A local Brownsville family hosted her on their farm and she lived to be over 100 years old.

Eliza's baskets are now collected in museums and private collections throughout western Oregon.

Narrative writing and guidance provided by David G. Lewis, PhD.

## The Annual Cycle

The early Kalapuya calendar had six months. Summer months were not recorded due to the abundance of natural resources, and the high level of travel and collection activity. The lean months of late fall to early spring were tracked by seasonal cues which the Kalapuya interpreted to determine resource availability. The later Kalapuya calendar identifies 12 seasonally demarcated months. To the right is a reproduction of the Gatschet record (c. 1877) of a latter-day Kalapuya calendar, which is graphically shown in the circle above.

