

RAVENSONG HERBAL APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

with herbalist Jessy Delleman

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Course details

This course was created out of a deep respect for the healing powers of plants, a love of communing with the plant world, and a desire to share this connection with you. The program is uniquely designed to facilitate a connection between you and the plants ~ to help you learn to develop a personal relationship with them, co-creating a healing path with the plants for physical, emotional, and spiritual evolution.

This course will immerse you in the world of the hands-on aspects of herbalism: plant identification, wildcrafting, herb growing and harvesting, medicine making, and plant spirit medicine. It will also give you a strong foundation in holistic herbal theory, energetics and formulation. The program will give you the foundational tools from which to build your personal herbal practice to enhance your own health and well being and that of your friends and families by utilizing plant medicines.

This program is not designed to simply give you another opportunity to consume *information*, but rather to embody true *knowledge*. This program is designed to help you become a carrier of plant wisdom, and connect to living tradition that has been passed down over thousands of years.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the program you will have gained a good working knowledge of:

- How to process herbs from start to finish, including ideal harvest times.
- How to make high-quality herbal preparations: herbal infusions & decoctions, infused oils & salves, tinctures, infused vinegars & oxymels, infused honeys & herbal syrups, double extracts, and distillation.
- How to identify many of our wild herbal allies in the forest, beach, and roadside ecosystems; and how harvest these plants sustainably.
- How to grow a well rounded variety of herbs for medicine, including propagation and seed saving, and maintaining a healthy garden through regenerative practices.
- How to work with plants as our allies and healers through heart-centred perception, by tuning in to the subtle messages the plants give us about their healing properties.
- The foundations of herbal therapeutics, including vitalist theory, herbal actions & energetics.

Class dates for the 2024 season

Classes take place on Saturdays & Sundays, one weekend every 4 weeks from the end of April until mid-November, for a total of eight weekend intensives (or 16 full class days). Each class day is held from 9am-4pm. Attendance is expected for all classes.

The class dates for 2024 are:

March 30th & 31st

April 20th & 21st

May 18th & 19th

June 15th & 16th

July 20th & 21st

August 24th & 25th

September 21st & 22nd

October 26th & 27th

Location

Classes take place on location and in person at Ravensong, 4335 Macaulay Rd, Black Creek, Vancouver Island BC. There are additional field trips to local natural areas for plant walks and wildcrafting.

Accommodation

Accommodation is not offered on site. There are several campgrounds accommodating vehicle and tent camping, as well as several Airbnb rentals available in the area. There are also dozens of cabin rentals available at nearby Seratoga Beach (15mins away).

Course Fees and Payment Options

- The tuition for the program is \$2950.
- Once accepted, a \$350 deposit is considered due immediately. Without this deposit we are unable to reserve your spot in the program. The deposit is **non-refundable** and applied toward the cost of your course tuition (of course, it will be refunded if the instructor has to cancel the program for some reason)
- The remainder of tuition, less deposit, is due in full on the first day of class on March 30th 2024. Cash is the preferred method of payment.
- 4 instalment payment plan, is also available for students. Please note there is a 5% admin fee added to this option
- If choosing the instalment plan, the first instalment of \$690 is due on the first day of class. The other three instalments of \$690 are due on May 18th, July 20th, and September 21st.
- Course fees include 250+ page printed and bound Herbal Materia Medica course book written by the instructor, as well as a 200+ page Holistic Herbal Theory binder full of detailed course notes.
- Course fees include all medicine making supplies (all bottles, jars, herbs, menstruums, etc) for the hands-on medicine making components of the course.
- Students enrolled in the program will receive 20% off all seed and products offered through ravensongherbals.com.
- Students are responsible for their own transportation and fuel costs to and from class and field trip locations.
- Students will be responsible for covering the cost of any supplies used for their Plant Ally Assignments (see below).

Assignments and homework

Students will be expected to complete a short assignment following each class (extracurricular time requirement of 4-6hrs monthly). Several short 5-10 minute presentations will be required of the student throughout the program. A longer Plant Ally Assignment will also be required.

Plant Ally Assignment

During the course students will be assigned one plant to work with more deeply. You will be working with this plant on your own time for several months. You are encouraged to get to know your plant ally as much as possible during that time ~ journey with it, harvest it, make medicine with it, dream with it, sit with it, eat it, bath in it...observe it and research it...learn to listen to the plant, commune with it to learn its special powers and uses.

Students will be required to prepare several medicines with their plant ally. These medicines will be presented to the class. As part of the assignment students will also share their individual stories and experiences with their plant ally. (This is one of the most enriching and connecting aspects of the course!).

Course Policies

- Attendance is expected for all classes. Please contact us *prior* to class if you will be absent, or have to arrive late or leave early.
- It is requested that you arrive between 8:30 and 8:45 to get settled, and pour yourself some tea, so that you will be fully present when class begins promptly at 9am. It is asked that you arrive a *minimum* 10 minutes prior to the class start time, lateness is quite disruptive to the class structure.
- **Cell phones are not permitted during class hours.** Please turn off your phones or leave them in your vehicle. Please do not use your phone to take notes, instead bring a notebook and pen.
- Students are responsible to arrange for their own transportation to and from all class locations and field trips. Carpooling will be required at times and your cooperation is appreciated.
- **We do not police students, enforce protocols, or require you to adhere to any particular social or political narrative.** We trust

in your inherent goodness and believe in meeting everyone where they are at with acceptance and love. We hope you will help us to create a warm and welcoming space in honour of each other, the plants, and this magical journey!

- Students are expected to come fully prepared to each class (see below.)

Class preparedness

Students are expected to come to each class prepared to do a variety of outdoor activities in all kinds of weather. Most classes will have a portion of the day spent outdoors (it is usually 50% outdoors from day to day). We will gather outside for plant walks, hikes to wild-harvest patches, we will be digging roots, harvesting etc. We will be spending time sitting on the forest floor during plant sits (this requires sitting in a variety of conditions and substrates ~ eg. rocky, damp, etc ~ and without chairs). This all requires a level of experience and comfort being active and out in the elements.

You will be expected to come prepared to each class with the following supplies on hand:

- secateurs (aka hand pruners or bypass pruners) for harvesting
- gathering basket or bag, paper bags
- water, snack, lunch
- sun hat
- rain gear including rain pants
- proper footwear
- notebooks and pen

Course Requirements

A certificate is awarded at the end of program for completion of all course requirements.

- A minimum of 80% Attendance of classes
- Completion of homework assignments
- Completion of Plant Ally Assignment

Attendance Policy

Attendance is expected for all classes. Please do not apply to this course if you foresee missing more than two classes maximum. If you miss more than three out of the 18 classes you may not be eligible for the certificate of completion.

Withdrawal Policy

- A deposit of \$350 is considered due upon acceptance into the program. This deposit is non-refundable and will be applied to the cost of tuition.
- Withdrawal from the program is for unforeseen hardship and emergency reasons only.
- Upon acceptance to the program the student agrees and fully intends to attend the program in full, understanding that withdrawal from the program once underway can greatly disrupt the flow of the course for the instructor and other students and can lead to detrimental financial costs to the instructor.
- If a student is not satisfied with the course for any reason and wishes to withdraw, a meeting must be arranged with the instructor, and the opportunity made for any issues impairing the completion of the course to be discussed in full. A time frame must be given to allow for concessions to be made to accommodate the student's needs before withdrawal may be considered as an option.
- If a student is granted withdrawal from the program a refund (less non-refundable deposit of \$350) will be given in full with prior notice of 20 business days before the program start time.
- If a student wishes to withdraw after 20 days prior to the program start time or once the program is underway, the student is responsible for any remaining tuition fees based on a semester system basis.
- The first semester ends on May 18th, the second on July 20th, and the third on September 21st. No refunds will be given past September 21st.
- If you are granted withdrawal once a semester has begun you are considered responsible for the tuition fees for that semester and any semesters that took place before it. Each semester is considered worth \$690 each, and the \$350 non-refundable deposit is separate from this amount.
- If students are not granted withdrawal, and are on a payment plan, any remaining instalments of the payment plant are still required whether the student continues to attend the classes or not.
- If withdrawing after 20 days prior to the program start date, a fee of \$150 for course books is also withheld, unless course books are returned and in new condition.