

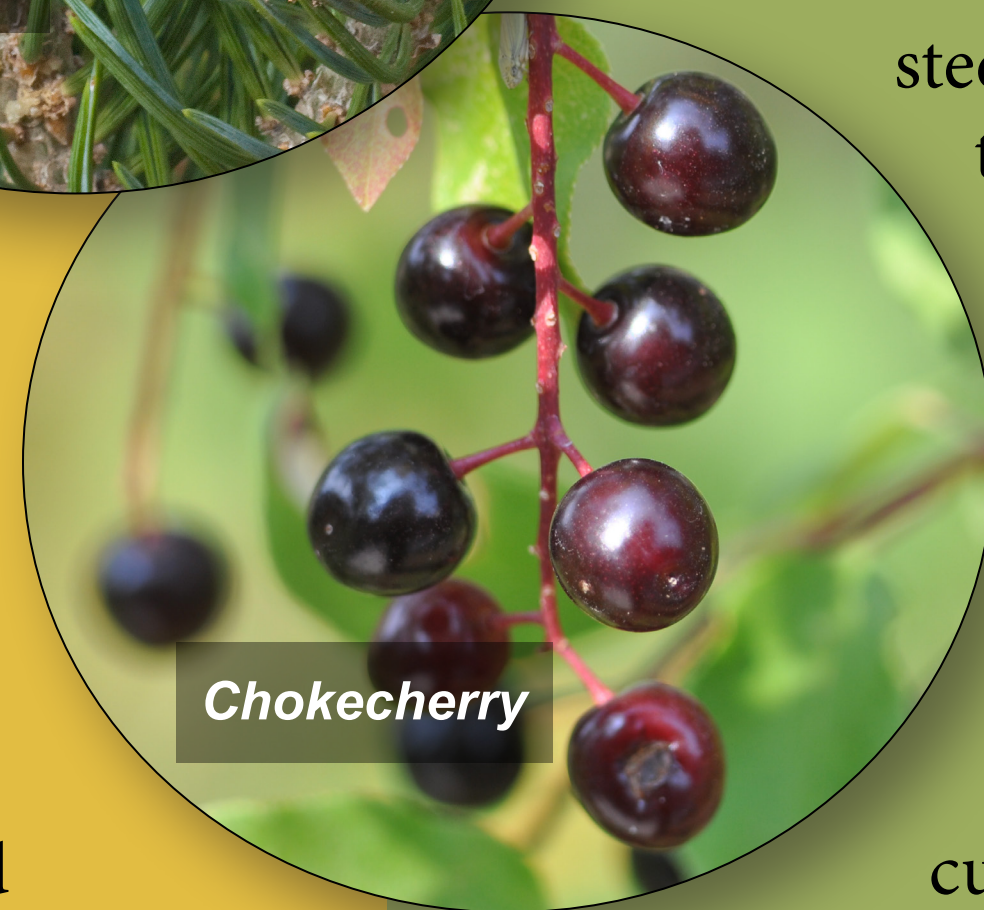
Harvesting Native Plants at La Botica

Today, we value native flowers, shrubs, and trees for their hardiness and ecological value. Wild plants are adapted to local climates and provide food and shelter for insects, birds, and animals. Thriving native ecosystems help purify our air and water. Many products we use every day contain ingredients harvested from wild plants.



Pinon Pine

Indigenous Americans who lived in the San Luis Valley relied on dozens of native plant species for food, medicine, artistic expression, and spiritual practice. For the San Luis Valley's Hispano communities, wild plants were the backbone of a vibrant folk medicine tradition and supplemented staple crops.



Chokecherry

Special Places in the San Luis Valley

Places where culturally significant plants grow are important parts of the landscape. Many of those places have unique ecological qualities that promote the growth of valued plant species.

La Botica, a Spanish term meaning “the pharmacy,” is one of those special places.

Located deep within a steep-walled canyon, the La Botica archaeological site preserves a record of human lifeways that spans thousands of years. The site is also home to many culturally significant plants.



Rose Hips

Artist's Illustration

The backdrop above this panel depicts three different groups of people harvesting native plants at La Botica during three different periods.

On the left, Pueblo people are collecting pinon nuts around A.D. 1350. In the center, Hispano people gather rose hips during the 1920s. On the right, Ute elders and youth are harvesting chokecherries during the 2010s.