

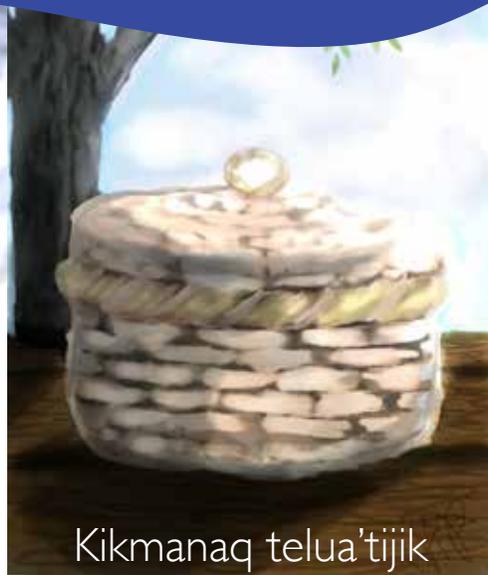
# just the **fact** **Wisqoq**

Black Ash *Fraxinus nigra*



Ekinu'tmasimk

- Wisqoq teli-ankamkusit nkutey aqamoq, katu keknu'e'k mita pesawe'k pka'w.
- Kaqisk nmiatesk Aqamoq etlikutijik kikjuk Wisqoq.
- Wisqoq na apje'jit aqq awije'jit kmu'j, welipka'q aqq sipikit, maw-klusit wjit eltumkl pu'taliewe'l.
- Wisqoq na elt telu'tut pu'taliewey aqamoq, kaqi'sk Mi'kmaq aqq Pilui-l'nu'k ewe'wmi'tij eltu'titl pu'taliewe'l.
- Wisqoq elikwet mi'soqo 20m tel-pitoqsit.
- Ipka'w ntlu'tewamu'k aqq nukwe'k Wisqoq, atel poqjiwey kiswa a'qitikwey.
- Kini'skwikijik aqq tupkwanamuksijik wisqasowji'jk na'tamiaw 4-10 cm telkilultijik saqlio'ltijik Wisqoq-iktuk.
- Wisqoqey ipka'w naji- nukwe'k jel mu ipka'w pilue'k aqamoq tlia' ki's kaqikwey.
- Nipisoqnn maw-pasikwekl te'si'tij aqamoq aqq aji-pasikwekl jel mu pilue'k kmu'jk.
- Wisqoq maw-wlikwet na'ku'set-iktuk, mu welikwek ta'n kaqjikatek.



Kikmanaq telua'tijik

“Tujiw mesnmaykipnl qasawo'qe'l lukwaqne'l aqq tmi'knn, poqji-tmasqite'mu'k, elipkete'mu'k aqq eltaqo'tu'k Wisqoq. Ke'sk mna'q lukwaqne'l, ta'n tujiw kmu'j paskina'sik, L'nu'k siaw-tmina'tu'tip aqq eltu'tipnn pu'taliewe'l.”  
–Stephen Augustine

“Menueken pikwelk Wisqoq amujpa elien Sikniktik, Pastunkewa'kik kiswa Kepek ta'n aji-tke'k. Awije'jit Wisqoq Unama'kik.”  
–Cameron Paul

“Ni'n aqq Flo Young ewe'wmeqip snawey eltuekl pu'taliewe'l, mita Wisqoq awije'jit tami wejuow We'kwistoqnik.”  
–Susie Marshall

“Jiptuk ma' wen mikwite'tmuk pikwelk Wisqoq nikwen Unama'kik, katu amujpa eyu'tisnik mita kikmanaq nenmi'tij ta'n tel-we'wuj. Na tujiw, snawey ewe'wasiksip mita mu asite'tasiwekip nqatmnenu L'nue'kati. Kiskuk ta'n pasik tami kis-elatijimkwen naji-ktanana ta'n te'sit Wisqoq menueken.”  
–Albert Marshall Sr.

“Nutqo'ltie'k ekina'muksiekip koqoey, nkutey nenuanen welipka'q aqq pekatamu'k Wisqoq.”  
–Keith Christmas



Koqoey wjit weji-ksalu'kik

Tlia'j pikwel-kaqiaq ta'n Mi'kmaq telo'ti'tij, ma' kaqianuk telitumk pu'taliewe'l. Eltumk pu'taliewe'l ne'kaw keknu'e'k wjit ta'n telite'lsulti'tij Mi'kmaq, tetuji keknu'e'k staqa tli'suti. Pu'taliewe'l ewe'wasiksipnl wja'tasiktan mimajuaqn maqamikew-iktuk.

Mi'kmaq aliwsulitipnik. Putaliewe'l ewe'wmi'tipnl pma'tunew wilu'ow aqq wutmo'taqnuew. Qame'kewaqaq pejita'tijek teli-ankapmi'tipnn pu'taliewe'l pasik wjit ta'n tel-weketumk.

Pikwelk wen kiskuk etlite'tk ksika'qtn telitumk pu'taliewe'l, katu mu na telianuk. Pasik mu wen pikweluk nika' tel-lukwek.

Nuta'q Mi'kmaq apaja'tunew telitumk pu'taliewe'l, aqq nikwenanew Wisqoq Unama'kik aqq kisiku'k kiswa wenik ta'n me' tel-lukutijik kina'muksinenu ta'n telitumk Pu'taliewe'l.



# just the facts **Wisqoq**

Black Ash *Fraxinus nigra*



## ALL The Facts

- Wisqoq look similar to other ash trees, however its spongy bark is unique.
- White ash is often found growing with Wisqoq.
- Wisqoq trees love moisture and are usually found growing in swampy areas. They are often found among black spruce, balsam fir, speckled alder, and red maple.
- Black Ash is a small, rare tree with a straight grain and is very flexible, perfect for making baskets.
- Wisqoq is also called Basket Ash, often used by Mi'kmaq and other native people to make baskets.
- Wisqoq can grow up to 20 m tall.
- Bark on young and middle-aged trees is light gray, soft, and spongy.
- Their pointed, dark brown buds are 4–10 cm long.
- Wisqoq bark is softer than the bark of other ashes even when Wisqoq are full-grown and mature.
- Their twigs are the thickest of all ash trees and often thicker than most other trees.
- Black Ash prefer to grow in full sun and don't do well in shady areas.



## What Our People SAY

“Ever since we got metal tools and axes, we started cutting, pounding, and weaving Wisqoq. Before tools, when the trees cracked, L'nu's continued to split them and weave them for baskets.”  
–**Stephen Augustine**

“To get plenty of Wisqoq you have to travel to New Brunswick, Maine or Quebec where it is colder. It's very scarce in Unama'ki.” –**Cameron Paul**

“Me and Flo Young used to use maple trees to make baskets because Wisqoq was rarely found anywhere near Eskasoni.” –**Susie Marshall**

“We might not remember if there was a lot of Wisqoq in Unama'ki, but it had to be in order for our people to know what to do with it. Back then, maple was used because we were not allowed to leave the reservation. Today, we can easily drive and get all the Wisqoq we want.”  
–**Albert Marshall Sr.**

“When we were younger, we were taught that to tell if a Black Ash was perfect, to make sure there were not a lot of knots and that it was really straight.”  
–**Keith Christmas**



## WHY We Love Them

While some parts of Mi'kmaq culture may pass on, basket making will never die. Basket making has always been an important aspect of Mi'kmaq cultural identity, as important as language. Baskets were a tool to survive off the land.

Mi'kmaq society was nomadic, moving from place to place. Baskets were used to carry food and materials. When Europeans arrived they considered baskets “utilitarian” which means they were designed to be useful and practical.

Many now think basket making is a lost art, but it's not. It's just that most people don't practice the craft anymore.

Mi'kmaq need to bring this craft back, beginning with re-planting Wisoq in Unama'ki and learning how to make baskets from our Elders and others who practice the craft.

Learn MORE Here:

UNAMA'KI

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