

Soap Root Brush Making

Collect the soap roots. This is best when ground is soft; makes it easier; then soak in water.



Cut off bottom roots and cut off top leaves; then pull the fibers off, slowly. Put the bulbs in boiling water.



Now the fibers have to be washed slowly, dipping them in the water and combing them out. Try to keep the fibers together. There is a lot of mud and dirt so this may take a while. After cleaning all dirt off put on a drying rack.



Now the bulbs need to be smashed up into a paste. With a small scraper you push off the paste from the bulb. Now there is a mush of white-like paste; this will be the handle of the brush. Be sure to keep all dirt out.

With the fibers clean and dry put them together in similar sizes. Now we wrap the fibers with a type of string; wrap and feed the string through the fibers making it nice and tight.



Boil the paste and put small amounts on the fibers; sit and let dry in the shade, not the sun. After 3 - 5 coats of paste the brush is complete.

Using the brush: to brush off feathers, dust your pictures, put on a string to wear, show elders how to brush off your food. This tool has been used for 15,000± years; let's keep making them.

