

Spanish Moss

The use of woven spanish moss blankets and saddle pads was adopted by Confederate cavalry during the civil war. By the end of the war it was the most commonly issued blanket, which is probably not surprising considering its abundance in the south. It was durable and waterproof, did not chafe the horses, and allowed airflow and evaporation of horse's sweat.



Sphagnum moss is a plant that can be used in many ways. It has been used because it can fight off germs and hold up to 14 times its own weight in water. Sphagnum moss acts like a sponge and its cells can absorb and retain, or hold, water. The water can be squeezed out and the moss will not collapse -- leaving it ready to take in water again.

The plant is not dependent on soil water because it can absorb moisture directly from the air.

During the American Civil War, sphagnum moss was often used to put on top of wounds -- where it was found to promote healing better than cotton or linen dressings.



As a medicine, dogwood trees were very important to Native Americans, African slaves and Confederate soldiers. When the Southern ports were blocked during the Civil War, the South lost access to imported medicines, one of which was quinine, which was used to treat malaria. Dogwoods were easily found by Confederate soldiers in any of the southern states. The dried, inner bark was as useful as quinine for malarial fevers. The red berries "infused in brandy" were used as a bitter, which is a term meaning it helps in digestion. Dogwood twigs were also used as a toothbrush.

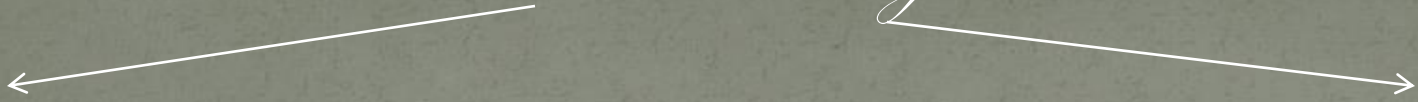


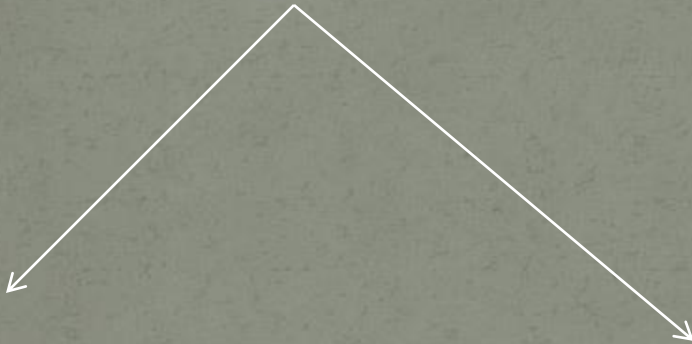
Pine Resin

During the Civil War, pine resin was used as a stimulant, diuretic, and laxative. Pine resin is the sap that can be frequently seen coming out of pine trees. Confederate soldiers also used pine branches to make shelters and sleep on.



Plant Field Journal





Examples:
