
Summer



*Indians picking cherries on the J. W. Collins orchard, near Three Mile Creek, south of The Dalles, 1925.
Photo by R. A. Brouhard.*

In traditional culture, summer was a time of hard work. Men would continue to fish for salmon, sturgeon, and lamprey eel, and to hunt for sage hens, prairie chickens, and rabbits. Women would continue to dig and gather roots.

Many tribes gathered blue camas in the summer. To get the edible part of the plant, women would dig up the entire plant, take the bulb, and then re-plant the rest so it could continue to grow more food. Women could gather up to 90 pounds of camas every day. Camas was baked into bread or biscuits. Many Native people still follow this tradition.

Summer also meant fruits and berries, including strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, blueberries, huckleberries, chokecherries, and more. Berries were eaten raw or dried.

Summer also brought an edible black lichen on pine and fir trees, which Native people used to make a cheese-like substance.