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CIT 230

W2 Site Content Gatherer's Grove

Gatherer's Grove is an edible plant index, open sourcing and open forum site that includes information about edible plants herbs and mushrooms from around the world that can help people survive or make a living. It should include information about where to find these items and when they are in season, it should include what parts are edible and at what stage of growth.

My website's index should be based on categories so that foragers can easily identify the type of item they found. When a certain item is being searched for users should be able to tell what the item looks like in all stages of growth, Vital parts of the plants anatomy, edible or medicinal parts of the plant, how to use or harvest them, when and where you can find them and their seasons. The site should include for the widely grown crops like common fruits vegetables or cereals the amount and type of nutrients they need. Eventually the site could include the types of compost or plants or herbs that provide that type of nutrients. Ideally all species of a certain type of item would be listed with differences.

There is a possibility for two ways that the site is open for all users to share their knowledge or experiences. The first and obviously most difficult way is to create a user database for people to sign in and post comments under their name or even start their own thread on a

topic. This would allow the most freedom among discussion and it would be more attractive to users that have questions that need direct answers from others that have experience. The second easier option would be a comment section at the bottom of each page and a page for general discussion. This could be accomplished by a simple captcha test and someone moderating the incoming comments. There should also be an easy way to access my email so that any major flaws can be pointed out and dealt with personally by me.

A nice addition to the site could be articles or links to articles written by plant scientists or agriculturalists or herbologists that get people thinking about the health benefits of eating and growing locally. A how-to page could be added explaining how to build and manage plant boxes and recipes for all different kinds of foods.

Topics of items will be categorized by family so that any plant will be easy to find with a small list of common plants that are commonly associated with that family. I want people to be learning almost subconsciously. As they read they will be able to see the scientific names of plants and other common names, the names of the parts of plant anatomy as they learn what parts are good to eat and what isn't. They will learn about the chemicals in the soil and what they are necessary for and all these things that the user is learning will have a practical application.

Perhaps in the future there will be a map and season feature so that people will more easily be able to find in season local edible plants.

I want my website to have a moving header, thin and brief but always on the site for easy navigation back to the main pages, I want the background to be very spacious and open so that people can easily navigate the site and appreciate the beauty of the background and the plants they are researching. I was thinking of incorporating a small animation that starts with an array

of leaves that covers the screen then recede to the sides revealing the homepage. I want to have a fairly uniform way of detailing the item of interest obviously starting with name, then geographical location then seasons then structure and anatomy with pictures and drawings for positive ID of the item. The next descriptors would be the needed nutrients and farming technique where possible, then how to harvest and cook.

Those who consistently contact me about information to update and give information should be made moderators on the page to edit and add as they please. Their reach will help achieve the goal that I have in mind of creating a collective database of gathered knowledge about items that can be found and eaten. I truly believe that if we took more advantage of the bountiful harvest mother nature gives us every year millions would be more healthy and more satisfied not only with their appetite but with their lives.