

8/6/2007

SUMMER FLOWERS, SUMMER NOT!

Up until now, the roads we have traveled have been good smooth roads. After we left Whitehorse, YT, there began a lot of repair. Alternating stretches of gravel topping and the appearance of small red flags along the shoulder. These flags mean there is a bad hole or dip or rough pavement. Slow Down! Also there is extreme dust created for anyone following. So far, this is only in the Yukon. We entered Alaska today and we have yet to travel its roads.

All through BC and the Yukon there are flowers that are named Fireweeds. It grows extensively throughout Canada and has been proclaimed the Yukon's floral emblem. Besides a beautiful flower to view and photograph, Fireweed is a treat to eat.



For years backwoodsman have eaten the elongated leaves of the plant as a vegetable similar in taste to spinach, dried and ground into a spice, and steeped into a mild tea. The lovely magenta blossoms also make a tasty tea, and can also be tossed into a salad, or used as a base for making jelly and syrup.

When cooking, the blossoms emit an alfalfa-like odor. Fireweed jelly produces a very pleasant surprise that is versatile as a spread for hot breads or as a flavoring for plain yogurt. So much for your lesson for the day!

We will take maybe one or two days to reach Fairbanks. We lost an hour when we crossed into Alaska. The daylight lasted until at least 12:30 am last night! It may even last longer as we go north to Fairbanks.

Dave & Bonnie