

# Understory plants in Finland

Jari Miina



European NWFPs network  
|Action FP1203 |  
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# Commercially most important understory in Finland

Species	Yield*, million kg	Commercial picking**	Medicinal or aromatic use	Edible use
<i>Vaccinium vitis-idaea</i>	250 Mkg	7 Mkg	(x)	X
<i>V. myrtillus</i>	180 Mkg	4 Mkg	(x)	X
<i>Empetrum nigrum</i>	140 Mkg	30 000 kg	(x)	X
<i>V. oxycoccos</i> & <i>V. microcarpum</i>	20 Mkg	14 000 kg	(x)	X
<i>Rubus chamaemorus</i>	30 Mkg	13 000 kg	(x)	X
<i>R. idaeus</i>	10 Mkg	400 kg	(x)	X
<i>V. uliginosum</i>	50 Mkg	≈ 0 kg	(x)	X
Indigenous herbs (flowers, leaves, fibres):	?	?	X	X
E.g. milk willowherb, wild strawberry, wild raspberry, red clover, heather, dandelion, birch, yarrow, goutweed, nettle, wood sorrel, polypody, cottongrass, lady's mantle,				

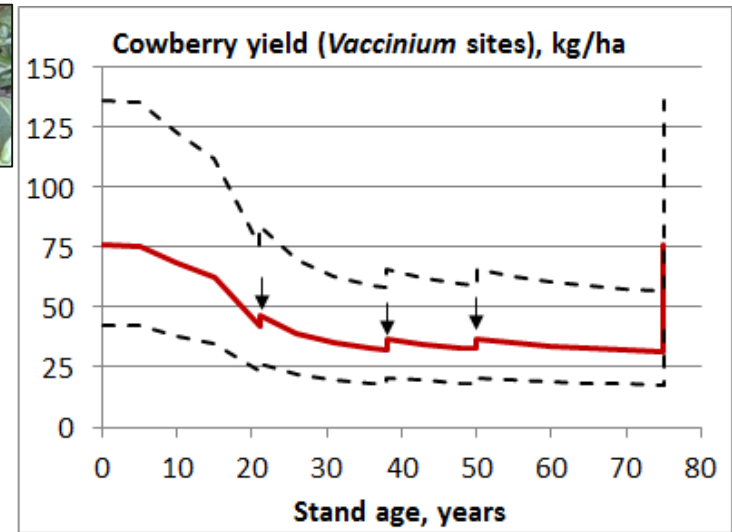
\* The average annual biological yield based on expert calculations (Salo, K. 2008).

\*\* The average annual amount of berries bought fresh by organised trade and industry (MARSI-statistics 2008-2013). Products: juices, jams, marmalades, beverages, frozen foods, additional nutrients, cosmetics, etc.

## *Vaccinium vitis-idaea*



- Pine stands on nutrient-poor sites
- A good supply of light
- Good yields in the beginning of the rotation, and in mature sparse stands
- In 2013, fresh berries were sold to industry 10.7 Mkg (1.16 Euro/kg); export 0.8 Mkg and import 0.4 Mkg (Sweden)



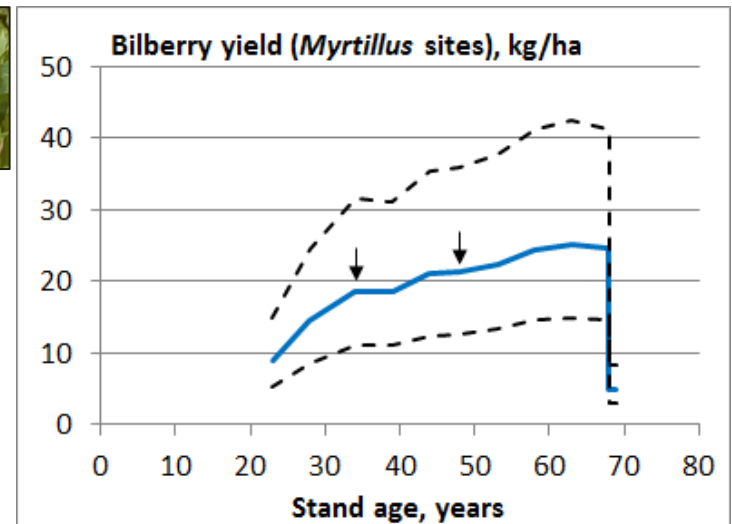
(Turtiainen et al. 2013)

60–70% of Finns pick wild berries: household use is five times higher than commercial picking!

## *Vaccinium myrtillus*



- Conifer forests of medium fertility
- A moderate supply of light
- Good yields in mature sparse stands
- In 2013, fresh berries were bought by industry 5 Mkg (1.49 Euro/kg); export 0.8 Mkg and import 1 Mkg (Sweden).
- Frozen bilberries were exported 3.2 Mkg (China) and imported 4.2 Mkg (Sweden)



(Miina et al. 2009)

# Thank you!

