

## **Black Ointment** **By Kim Balas**

Black ointment is a salve made of several herbs and nutrients and is well known for its drawing action to promote healing. The Black Salve is an herbal folk tradition that has been used by both doctors and folk healers for centuries. There is also a history of its use by North American Indians. Native Americans commonly applied poultices of roasted onions and bloodroot as well as other substances, which eroded the skin to draw out malignant growths, tumors and other undesirable skin conditions. Black salve traditionally was made of ingredients that were locally available so the recipes varied from tribe to tribe. A number of folk traditions claim that the salve came from Ireland but it is difficult to pinpoint the exact origin of the drawing black salve. These formulas were admired and used by medical doctors during the 18th century in Europe as well. Around the mid-nineteenth century, Native American herbs became very popular in Europe and a Dr. J.W. Fell, working at Middlesex Hospital in London developed a paste similar to black salve. This was directly applied as a paste to a malignant growth and generally destroyed the tumor within two to four weeks. The late Dr. Raymond Christopher created a black ointment drawing salve that contained potent drawing herbs such as poke root and black walnut bark. Many consider this to be only for drawing out slivers and such embedded in the flesh, but in fact, Christopher also used the salve for drawing out cancers and tumors. Whatever the origin, the black salve is still used today as a powerful drawing agent.

These black salves continue to be an accepted and recognized medical procedure. A medical text entitled Chemosurgery: Microscopically controlled Surgery for Skin Cancer was written by Dr. Frederic E. Mohs, B.Sc., M.D. and last published by Charles Thomas in 1978. discusses the use of a black ointment for topical application for the removal of various cancers, molls, warts and other growths and excrescences. Dr. Mohs was clinical Professor of Surgery at the University of Wisconsin Medical School.

A must-have around the house, black ointment draws toxins and debris from cuts and wounds. It contains beeswax, oils and herbs when combined fight infection and reduces inflammation and swelling. Black ointment has traditionally been used for abrasions, minor skin problems, splinters, athlete's foot, acne, boils, abscesses, carbuncles, felons, skin infections, skin cancer, cysts and tumors and drawing out insect stings. It is great for toning and tightens the skin and improving healing time.

### **Black salve consists of the following ingredients:**

Chaparral herb, lobelia herb, comfrey leaf, red clover herb, plantain root, golden seal root, myrrh gum, marshmallow root, mullein herb and chickweed herb combine to make Black Ointment in a base of olive oil, beeswax, pine tar and vitamin E oil.