



FACT SHEET

DANIEL BOONE NATIONAL FOREST

American Ginseng

(Panax quinquefolius)

Ginseng harvesting permits will not be issued in 2016.



Wild ginseng populations are disappearing across southern Appalachia. The ginseng decline is due primarily to illegal harvest, which includes taking out of season, excessive take beyond set limits, taking immature plants, and taking mature plants without reseeding for future growth.

In the Daniel Boone National Forest, biologists and other field personnel have observed a decline in wild ginseng populations over the past several years. Longtime collectors have also reported the disappearance of ginseng in areas where it once occurred, stating that they now have trouble finding harvestable populations.

Steps to return wild ginseng to the forest

- In an effort to increase wild ginseng populations in the Daniel Boone National Forest, the issuance of permits to collect wild ginseng from national forest lands is suspended.
- A period of non-harvest time is needed to increase the number of ginseng plants in the forest.
- U.S. Forest Service field personnel will continue to monitor population trends of wild ginseng across national forest lands.
- Ginseng collectors and dealers can help protect wild ginseng from further decline by strictly following all state and federal regulations.

Removing any wild ginseng plant or its parts from national forest land without a permit is considered theft. Penalties for poaching may include a fine up to \$5,000 or a 6-month sentence in federal prison, or both.

