



**Ginseng Collecting in Cherokee National Forest:**

Ginseng is a native plant of Tennessee that grows mostly in cool, moist mountain forests. This perennial herb is highly prized for its large, fleshy roots which are believed to have medicinal value. Permits are required to collect ginseng in the national forest.

**2020 Collection Season & Permits**

For 2020, a maximum of 40 permits will be issued allowing 25 roots (approximately ¼ pound) per permit to be collected. The 2020 Cherokee National Forest ginseng permitting and collecting process will be as follows:

- The 2020 ginseng collecting season will be from **September 16 through September 30**. This two week period will be the **only** time that ginseng can be legally collected in the Cherokee National Forest by valid permit holders.
- The USDA Forest Service will issue a **total** of **40** permits, each with a **maximum limit** of 25 roots.
- A drawing will be held to determine the 40 permittees. Twenty permits will be issued for the northern half of the Forest (Watauga & Unaka Districts) and twenty permits will be issued for the southern half of the Forest (Tellico & Ocoee Districts).
- Permit drawing applicants may **only apply** for either the north or the south Cherokee NF.
- Permits will cost \$20 and are limited to one permit per person per year. Permittees must be at least 18 years of age.
- Five ginseng collection zones have been designated for the north Cherokee NF (Watauga & Unaka Districts), and five collection zones for the south Cherokee NF (Tellico & Ocoee Districts). One zone on each half of the Forest will be open for collecting each year.
- Collection zones will be rotated each year to allow plants a five year recovery period necessary to help ensure populations remain sustainable.

For 2020 the following ginseng collection zones will be open:

**North Cherokee NF – Zone 2:** Cherokee National Forest land within Greene County.

**South Cherokee NF – Zone 3:** Cherokee National Forest land from the Hiwassee River to Highway 68.

Persons interested in obtaining a permit to collect ginseng in either the north or the south Cherokee National Forest for the 2020 season must submit a letter of request to:

*USDA Forest Service  
2800 Ocoee Street North  
Cleveland, TN 37312*

**ATTN:** Ginseng Permits

Letters of request can be sent to the office listed above between August 3 and August 21, 2020, and must be **received no later than August 21**.

**Request letters must include:**

- Applicant’s full name (person doing collecting);
- Applicant’s mailing address and phone number;
- Which section of the Forest permit is being requested – north Cherokee NF **or** south Cherokee NF (**only one section can be applied for.**)

Successful permittees will be notified by letter beginning the week of September 1. Permits may **only** be obtained by mail. Instructions for receiving the permit by mail will be provided in the notification letter

If you have questions or need additional information please call: Unaka Ranger District–423-638-4109; Ocoee Ranger District–423-338-3300; or visit the web site: <http://fs.usda.gov/cherokee>

*A map will be issued with each permit indicating areas within the zone that are open for collecting. No collecting will be permitted outside the areas designated on the map.*

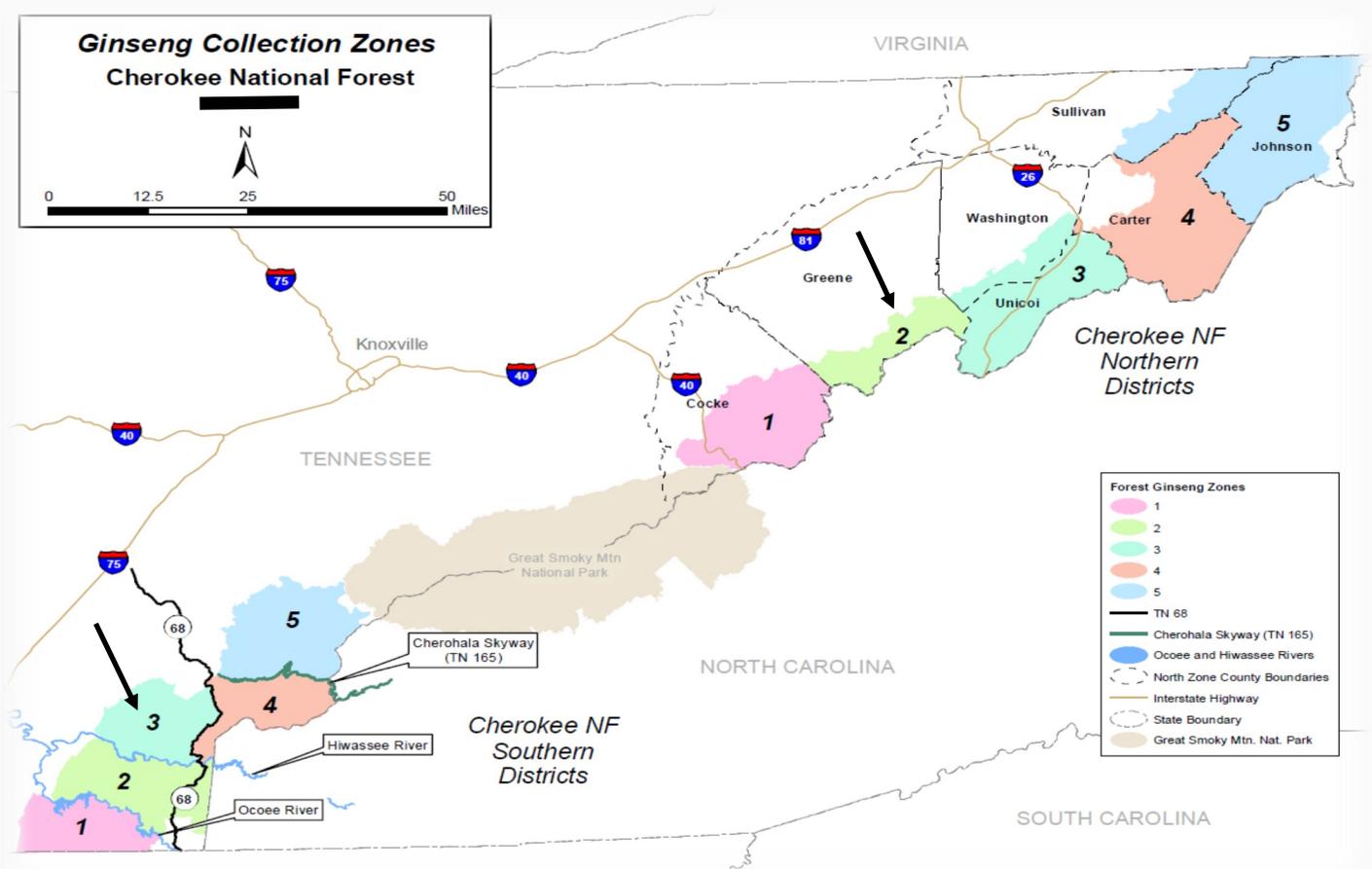




# Cherokee National Forest

<http://fs.usda.gov/cherokee>

## 2020 Ginseng Harvesting



### 2020 ginseng collection zones highlighted in red below:

#### **Southern Districts** (Tellico & Ocoee Ranger Districts)

- Zone 1 – Cherokee National Forest land from the Georgia border north to the Ocoee River (includes Parksville Lake)
- Zone 2- Cherokee National Forest land from Ocoee River north to Hiwassee River
- Zone 3 – Cherokee National Forest land from the Hiwassee River to Highway 68**
- Zone 4 – Cherokee NF land between Hwy 68 south of Tellico Plains and Hwy 165
- Zone 5- Cherokee National Forest land from Hwy 165 north to the National Forest boundary

#### **Northern Districts** (Watauga & Unaka Ranger Districts)

- Zone 1 – Cherokee National Forest land within Cocke County
- Zone 2- Cherokee National Forest land within Greene County**
- Zone 3 - Cherokee National Forest land within Unicoi & Washington Counties
- Zone 4 – Cherokee National Forest land within Carter County
- Zone 5- Cherokee National Forest land within Sullivan & Johnson counties

