

National Forests in North Carolina

Fact Sheet: *Galax urceolata*



Common Name: Galax, Bettleweed

Plant: Rhizomatous perennial with evergreen orbicular basal leaves

Flowers: Terminal raceme with small white 5-merous flowers, blooms mid May - early July.

Global Range: Centered in Southern Appalachians occurring in SC, Ga, Ala, east TN, NC, east Ky, Va, WV, and Md.

NC Range: Primarily occurring in the Mountains, scattered in the Piedmont and Coastal Plain.

Habitat: Widespread from dry to moist habitats, varying from closed canopies with dense heath layers to open communities such as rock outcrops.

Galax Bed Density: Patches highly variable covering 50-60% across 20 acres to less than 10% cover across 1-2 acres. Leaf density varying from 200,000 – 1,100,000 leaves/acre.

Harvest: Collected as floral green since early 1900's with significant harvest increase in the 1990's. Harvest estimated at 0.5-2 billion leaves, primarily occurring on the Blue Ridge Escarpment. Leaves greater than 3 inch diameter harvested; harvest restriction on National Forest from April 15- June 15. Harvest occurring on Appalachian, Grandfather, Pisgah, and Nantahala Ranger Districts. 99% of all harvest in the nation occurs in NC.

Harvest Revenue: Annual estimates from \$10-25 million; harvesters receive from 2-3¢/leaf.

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Permit Cost: \$ 0.45/Lb.
Permit Minimum Quantities:
Dependent on permit length;
15 day permit 100 lbs.
30 day permit 200 lbs.

Seasonal Harvest Restriction:
April 15 – June 15.

