

National Forests in North Carolina

Fact Sheet: *Allium tricoccum*



Common Name: Ramps, Wild Leeks

Plant: Pungent perennial bulb with 2-3 large elongate leaves. This spring ephemeral typically only lasts above ground from late March through mid May, fading with the onset of warm weather.

Flowers: Terminal umbel with 20-30 small white flowers, blooms mid June - early July after the leaves have faded.

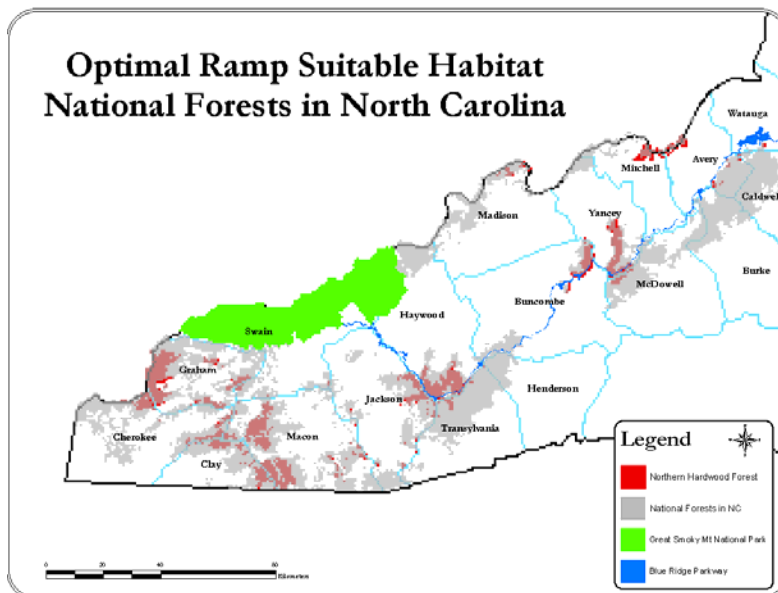


Global Range: Broadly distributed in Eastern North America from the Southern Appalachians to Southern Quebec.
NC Range: Only occurs in the Mountains.

Habitat: Primarily occurs within Northern Hardwood Forest from 3500 to 5000 feet elevation.

Ramp Bed Density: Populations highly variable varying from isolated patches covering less than 10 square feet to dense patches spreading across 5-7 acres. Leaf density varies within harvested patches from 80,000– 4000,000 ramps/acre.

Harvest: Collected as early spring edible for centuries with greater commercial harvest increase in the 1990's. Ramp festival users gather from 350-750 lbs per event. It is unknown how much other commercial harvest activity is occurring. A single pound of ramps averages 60 bulbs. Harvest primarily occurs on Appalachian, Pisgah, Cheoah, Tusquitee, and Nantahala Ranger Districts.



Harvest Revenue: uncertain, retail commercial revenue varies from \$10-20/lb.

Free Use Permit: Up to 5 lbs. annual harvest, no permit required.

Commercial permit Cost: \$ 0.50/Lb.

Minimum commercial permit quantity is 40 lbs.

Maximum total annual commercial harvest is 500 lbs. Commercial harvest areas will be periodically rotated with no more than 50% dispersed harvest occurring within any one area.