

# 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.

**National Forests in NC**  
**Permit Cost:** \$ 0.35/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.**

