



FACT SHEET

Galax

(*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 Tenn., N.C., 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 percent across 20 acres to less than 10 percent cover across 1-2 acres. Leaf density varying from 200,000 - 1,100,000 leaves/acre.

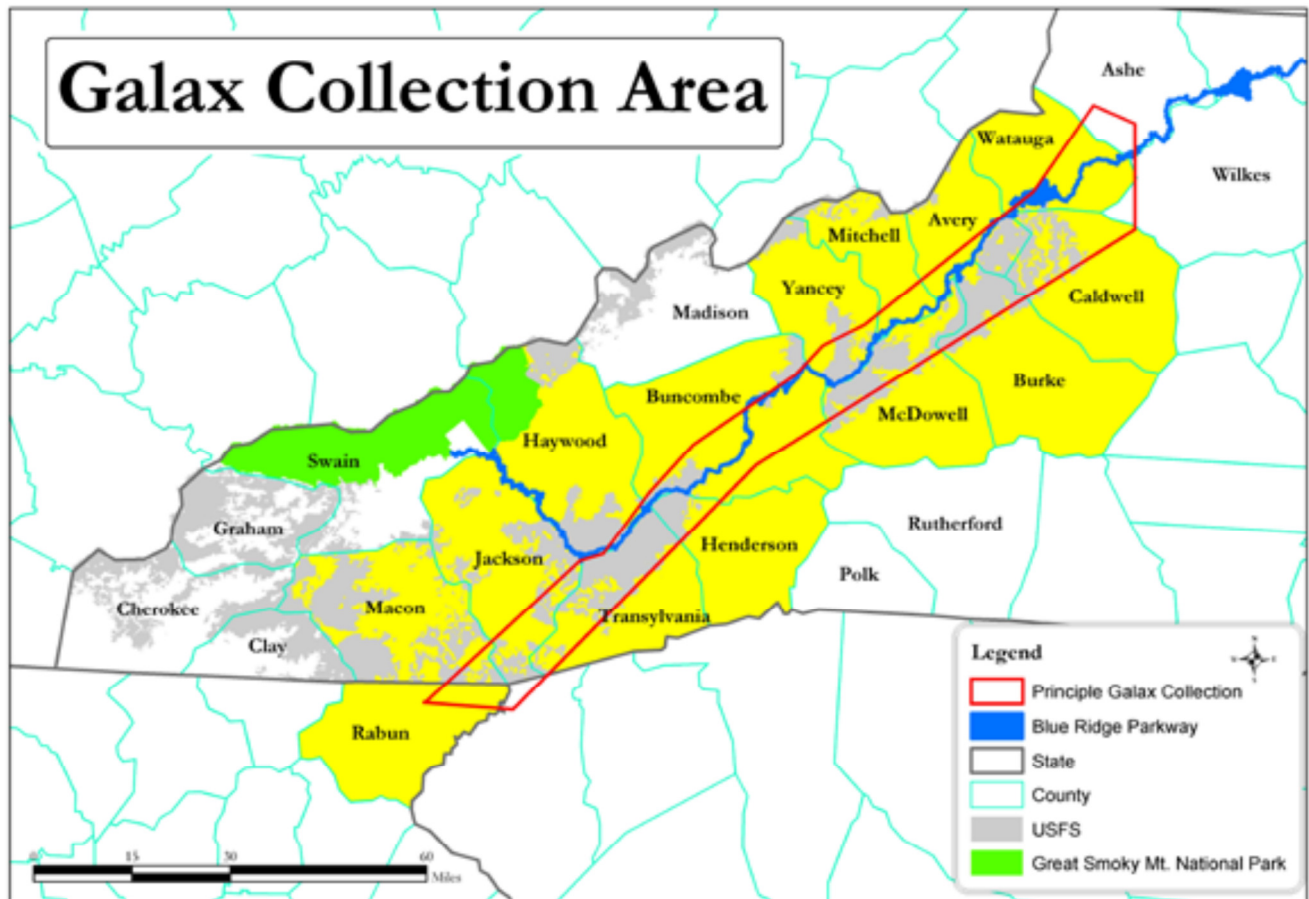


Harvest: Collected as floral green since early 1900s with significant harvest increase in the 1990s. Harvest estimated at 0.5-2 billion leaves, primarily occurring on the Blue Ridge Escarpment. **Leaves greater than 3-inch diameter harvested, and harvest may not occur on National Forest Land from April 15 - June 15.** Harvest occurring on Appalachian, Grandfather, Pisgah, and Nantahala Ranger Districts. About 99 percent 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.

Harvest is prohibited April 15 - June 15 (but permitted other times during the year).



For More Information:

For more information about the national forests in North Carolina, visit www.fs.usda.gov/nfsnc.

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