

FACT SHEET

DANIEL BOONE NATIONAL FOREST

American Ginseng

(Panax quinquefolius)



Wild ginseng populations are disappearing across southern Appalachia. The decline is due primarily to illegal harvest, which includes taking out of season, excessive take beyond set limits, taking immature plants, and taking mature plants without reseeding for future growth.

In the Daniel Boone National Forest, biologists and other field personnel have observed ginseng decline over the past several years. Longtime collectors have also reported the disappearance of ginseng in areas where it once occurred.

Ginseng harvest is currently prohibited in the Daniel Boone National Forest.

Forest management officials are taking steps to return wild ginseng to national forest lands.

- ❖ Permit suspension - The issuance of ginseng collection permits is suspended to allow recovery time for ginseng plants to become reestablished in the forest. A period of non-harvest time should help increase the ginseng population.
- ❖ Population monitoring - U.S. Forest Service field personnel are monitoring ginseng population trends to determine future management needs.

Ginseng collectors and dealers can help protect wild ginseng from further decline by strictly following all state and federal regulations.

Removing any wild ginseng plant or its parts from national forest land without a permit is considered theft. Penalties for poaching may include a fine up to \$5,000 or a 6-month sentence in federal prison, or both.