



# Kentucky Ginseng Fact Sheet

Kentucky Department  
of Agriculture  
Ginseng Marketing Program  
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GINSENG HARVEST SEASON OPENS SEPTEMBER 1ST

SELL ONLY TO LICENSED DEALERS

The Kentucky law and regulations for ginseng were overhauled in 2011. These changes are to improve the sustainability of Kentucky's ginseng harvest.

Harvest Date Start  
Can sell *green* ginseng  
Can sell *dry* ginseng

**September 1**  
**September 1**  
**September 15**

## Remember when harvesting ginseng, please be a good steward of ginseng.

- Get permission to harvest.
- Only harvest plants that have 3 prongs or are at least 5 years of age.
- Only dig plants with red berries
- Plant berries within fifty feet of where you dug the root with your finger in  $\frac{3}{4}$  to 1 inch of soil.
- Leave some mature plants for the future.
- If young plants come up when digging a larger root, plant them back into the same spot.

## Ginseng Program Summary

Ginseng harvest season is from September 1 - December 1, each calendar year

Buying season for green ginseng starts September 1 each calendar year

Buying season for dry ginseng is from September 15 – March 31 each calendar year

Dealer licenses are valid annually from September 1 – August 31 and cost \$75.00 for Kentucky residents and \$150.00 for non-residents.

Harvesters can declare their ginseng as wild, wild simulated, woodsgrown or cultivated.

All fees collected are deposited specifically for the ginseng program.

The regulation outlines violations and penalties, which is available to download at <http://www.kyagr.com/marketing/ginseng.html>



## Ginseng Age

The minimum age of harvest by law is 5 years and 3 prongs. However, the market for ginseng prefers roots 10 years old and older.

## Underage Root

Not only is underage root illegal to harvest, it's really not worth anything. In this picture are 16 young roots harvested before maturity. These 16 roots weight less ONE whole ginseng root of marketable age. If young plants come up when digging a larger root, plant them back into the same spot and leave them for your children and grandchildren to harvest.

