

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AND CONSUMER SERVICES
PLANT INDUSTRY DIVISION – PLANT CONSERVATION PROGRAM
GINSENG IN NORTH CAROLINA 2008

NATIVE WILD GINSENG IS HARVESTED FROM EVERY MOUNTAIN COUNTY IN NORTH CAROLINA EVERY YEAR. Collectors dug ginseng from 31 counties of western North Carolina in 2008.

WILD GINSENG HARVESTED, 2008:	11,402 pounds dry weight
WILD SIMULATED GINSENG HARVESTED, 2008:	61 pounds dry weight
PRICE PAID TO COLLECTORS, 2008:	\$250-\$350 per pound
TOTAL VALUE TO COLLECTORS:	~\$3,435,000
NUMBER OF COLLECTORS:	~ 4,000
NUMBER OF REGISTERED DEALERS:	51

County harvest figures are shown on the reverse.

The price of wild ginseng hit its peak in 2007 at an average of \$875 per pound of dried roots. In 2008 the price dropped to an average of \$250-350 per pound of dried roots. One pound of ginseng is approximately 350 dried roots.

Nearly all ginseng harvested in North Carolina is sold to Oriental markets, where wild ginseng is a highly prized herb. Cultivated ginseng grown in beds brings a much lower price. Many North Carolina families plant ginseng in their woods to sell as wild. This category of ginseng is often called wild-simulated or woods grown ginseng.

GINSENG RULES IN NORTH CAROLINA:

THERE ARE NO GINSENG REGULATION CHANGES FOR THE 2009 HARVEST SEASON

- Closed season April 1-Sept. 1 for wild ginseng.
- Collectors must have written landowner permission. This applies to both public and private lands. No collection is allowed in state or national parks. Stealing ginseng from another's land is a felony.
- There is no state license for collectors.
- Ginseng dealers must register annually with NCDA&CS.
- All ginseng shipped out of state must be certified by NCDA&CS.
- Collected wild ginseng must be at least 5 years old (3-prong).
- Collectors must plant seeds on site.

Rankings of NC counties by 2008-season wild ginseng harvest (in pounds dry weight)

County	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	1999	1998	1997	1996
Alamance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Alexander	10	4	3	1	5	10	5	4	7	17	9	9
Alleghany	16	7	7	9	37	55	57	70	27	43	141	106
Anson	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ashe	328	298	256	115	227	282	303	251	332	334	262	374
Avery	271	283	655	150	132	220	191	208	202	150	119	152
Buncombe	1645	1805	954	1171	255	743	1073	916	895	787	625	869
Burke	40	23	15	49	28	56	57	50	26	16	18	12
Caldwell	36	66	37	32	86	103	108	78	47	114	105	149
Caswell	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Catawba	39	17	0	4	2	2	0	4	0	4	8	30
Cherokee	317	411	303	175	338	304	386	268	415	336	220	359
Clay	410	392	142	206	251	307	324	237	419	406	134	276
Cleveland	8	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	8	11	4
Davidson	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	10	1
Davie	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	1
Forsyth	0	0	1	0	4	0	6	1	0	0	0	13
Gaston	1	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
Graham	518	606	340	225	144	274	391	372	517	453	223	514
Guilford	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Haywood	1473	1664	672	358	484	685	948	615	707	602	580	656
Henderson	139	216	55	60	77	45	211	92	171	129	86	161
Iredell	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	2	4	4	3	29
Jackson	1599	1825	290	475	397	460	839	562	826	747	872	1017
Lincoln	4	4	2	0	5	0	1	0	2	5	6	0
Macon	765	1003	573	487	351	368	591	341	691	663	604	1002
Madison	1246	1126	723	1288	239	844	1035	865	896	721	717	768
McDowell	222	432	183	131	167	180	182	230	331	342	246	244
Mecklenburg	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mitchell	566	767	471	208	222	334	456	420	387	276	278	418
Polk	1	23	1	48	57	46	61	15	88	28	27	41
Randolph	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rockingham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	1
Rutherford	47	27	25	16	12	29	47	3	70	10	31	67
Stanly	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stokes	2	0	0	1	3	2	12	11	4	41	17	14
Surry	35	27	7	18	29	27	65	22	62	88	47	49
Swain	391	305	176	159	251	252	340	273	451	355	271	408
Transylvania	99	53	49	31	44	60	77	68	73	88	92	103
Watauga	260	367	248	147	147	240	262	167	156	249	217	364
Wilkes	42	23	20	26	44	50	77	70	52	192	137	317
Yadkin	3	2	1	1	0	1	7	2	2	0	2	1
Yancey	690	1008	552	683	224	568	676	568	536	493	376	685
State totals	11223*	12799	6761	6274	4271	6548	8790	6788	8415	7710	6496	9182

*The discrepancy between county totals and the total reported above is due to missing county data that was not reported by NC ginseng dealers.