



Indiana Ginseng

Annual Report

2014-15 Harvest/Trade Season

Indiana Department of Natural Resources *f* **Division of Nature Preserves**
402 W. Washington St., Room W267 • Indianapolis IN 46204-2739
(317) 232-4052 / (317) 233-0133 fax

Annual Report of Indiana Ginseng Dealings:

2014-15 Harvest and Sale Season

There was a total of **7831 lbs.** and **8.39 oz.** of wild ginseng certified in Indiana this year, no cultivated ginseng was reported, the highest total since 1997. Again this season, Indiana had a total of 27 licensed dealers. This year's annual harvest total was anticipated to be larger than average due to excellent growing conditions for a second consecutive year.

Pricing continued strong overall in the Indiana market, although it was a volatile year attributed to international events in Hong Kong, the overseas destination for the trade. And of particular note, the influences of the television show "Appalachian Outlaws" was felt in Indiana as well as the other 13 exporting States. That heightened interest with fictional "action" and over-inflated prices paid to "diggers", leading to a near "ginseng fever" from those seduced to believe this would be easy money. That influence continues to be felt through numerous phone calls with callers mentioning the show.

The overall total weight and consistency of county weight trends, consideration of the number of dealers and the county abundance data again seem to correlate to another year of good growing conditions. That, combined with the pricing, (despite its volatility), seems to be the cause of the huge harvest, as opposed to representing a period of record ginseng plant population expansion.

FINDINGS:

Present abundance of wild ginseng rating was based on this scale:

0 = Absent	No Activity
1 = Rare	Under 1 lb.
2 = Occasional	1 lb. to 150 lbs.
3 = Frequent	Over 150 lbs.

At the end of the 2014 harvest season, only 11 Indiana counties reported no activity; 12 counties reported an increased abundance of ginseng; and no counties reported a decrease in current abundance. 9 of Indiana's 92 counties reported a positive trend in population while 6 showed a negative trend, 5 of which were pre-settlement prairie counties with little or no early record of ginseng occurrence. These figures represent the trend exceeding expectations due to the switch from 3 drought affected years to a second consecutive year with outstanding growing conditions in 2014.

Trend data requested in wild ginseng population considers only the comparison of the 2013/14 season and this current 2014/15 season:

-2 = extirpated -	0 lbs. of wild ginseng harvested 2 years in a row
-1 = decreasing -	decrease of more than 50 lbs. of wild ginseng since previous year
0 = stable -	within 50 lbs. of previous harvest of wild ginseng
+1 = increasing -	50 or more lbs. of wild ginseng harvested over last season

For the 2014 harvest season, there was only 1 county that had no activity reported for the second consecutive season, **no** counties had a decrease in abundance, **84 counties were stable or had an increase** in ginseng population trend as defined above for this season.

Since the methodology used for gathering this data, is actually just an annual statement of harvested amounts as reported to us from dealer logs, describing such annual activity levels as “extirpated”, “increasing”, and “decreasing” have long term implications that are possibly misleading representations. “No harvest”, “decreased harvest”, and “increased harvest” might be far better descriptors.

It is notable that this year’s root count decreased to 298 roots per pound, a reversal of trend from 331, 325, and 352.5 roots for pound for the past three seasons respectively. We again had several strong anecdotal comments of high quality and interestingly, several unsolicited comments from dealers of “ancient” roots being brought to the table for dealing. This correlates to the lower root count. This may have been influenced by the pricing which remained above average, starting at \$400/ lb. early and finishing at \$650/ lb. late in the season. It is notable that pricing fluctuated widely, attributed to the disruptions and protests in Hong Kong. Several major Indiana Dealers actually closed shop for a week during this period.

For the second consecutive year, I note that at the time of this writing, Indiana is experiencing exceptionally good growing conditions and should this continue it might be an interesting comparison when we see the 2015 harvest year data. We repeatedly see signs that the growing conditions seem to be the driving force behind the harvest figures, not the abundance of the species. This continues to be relatively predictable.

Although there will continue to be effort to update and improve Indiana law and regulations, we have no evidence to indicate detriment to the Indiana ginseng population to continue the harvest under the current rules and regulations.

Cary A. Floyd, Indiana Ginseng Coordinator
June 23, 2015



Department of the Interior
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
CITES EXPORT PROGRAMS

OMB No. 1018-0093
Expires 02/28/2014

Return to: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Division of Management Authority (DMA)
Branch of Permits, MS:IA
5275 Leesburg Pike
Falls Church, VA 22041-3803
1-800-358-2104 or 703-358-2104

Type of Activity: American Ginseng Export Program
STATE OR TRIBE: State of Indiana
HARVEST YEAR: 2014
PREPARED BY: Cary Floyd (317) 232-0207
*(Convention on International Trade in Endangered
Species of Wild Fauna and Flora)*

If the information requested has not changed from the last year, please indicate "No Change."			
Below, please provide the amount of ginseng harvested.			
Source of Ginseng	Harvested (lbs.)	Certified (lbs.)	Estimated Number of Roots Per Pound
Wild*	7831 lbs. 8.39 oz.	7831 lbs. 8.39 oz.	298
Artificially Propagated*			N/A
Program administered by (Department or Agency Name): • No change. Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Nature Preserves.			
Ginseng certification by (Department or Agency): • No change. Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Law Enforcement, et. al.			
Has your State or Tribe's enabling legislation, ginseng regulations; or ginseng certification form been modified in the last year? (If yes, please provide a copy): • No changes have been made to State legislation. IN Administrative Code re: ginseng, was readopted without change 5/18/2010			
Does your agency certify all wild ginseng harvested? If no, when would your agency not certify wild ginseng harvested in the State or on the tribal lands, and can uncertified ginseng be sold or transported outside the State or Tribe? • No change. Ginseng harvested for personal use is not required to be certified. Ginseng must be certified if it is to be sold or removed from the State.			
Does your agency certify all artificially propagated ginseng harvested? If no, when would your agency not certify artificially propagated ginseng harvested in the State or on the tribal lands, and can uncertified ginseng be sold or transported outside the State or Tribe? • No change. Ginseng harvested for personal use is not required to be certified. Ginseng must be certified if it is to be sold or removed from the State.			
When does your agency certify wild/artificially propagated ginseng (e.g., at time of harvest, at time of sale)? • No change. Ginseng must be certified prior to shipment; this is usually just prior to trade by a dealer, or just prior to the end of the trade season when it is placed "on hold."			
How does your agency handle wild/artificially propagated ginseng entering the State or Tribe from another State or Tribe? Is this procedure the same for both certified (by another State or Tribe) and uncertified ginseng? • No change. Dealers report out-of-state transactions on the Out of State Commerce form as part of their annual summary. The process is the same for both wild and cultivated ginseng.			

*Artificially propagated plants are defined under 50 CFR 23.64.

<p>Do all resident and non-resident individuals and companies dealing in (I.e., buying or selling) ginseng in your State or Tribe have to be registered or licensed? If no, please explain.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No change. Dealers must be licensed; diggers are not required to license or register.
<p>Can wild and/or artificially propagated ginseng be sold at any time during the year?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No change. Selling (trading) season is September 1 through March 31 of the following year.
<p>How often are dealers required to report the sale, purchase, or export of ginseng (e.g., monthly, quarterly)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Change. With every five (5) certificates used, the dealer must complete a "Report of Commerce" to get additional certificates. <p>Also, dealer's file logs of digger transactions quarterly, and a dealer must report annually by the current season's end, deadline of April 30.</p>
<p>Do you track unsold and/or un-exported ginseng from one season or one year to the next? Please explain.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No change. Unsold ginseng is reported on the Annual Summary as being "on hold." When sold, "on hold" roots are again reported on the Annual Summary by certificate number, but the weight is not recorded as part of this report. No ledger is kept of "on hold" roots by this office.
<p>What is the wild ginseng harvest season in your State or Tribe?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No change. September 1 through December 31 of the harvest year (i.e., 9/1/12-12/31/12).
<p>Does your State or Tribe have a harvest season for artificially propagated ginseng? If so, what is it?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No change. September 1 through December 31 of the harvest year (i.e., 9/1/12-12/31/12).
<p>Within the wild and artificially propagated ginseng reported above, are there other sub-categories of ginseng production that you track in your State or Tribe? If so, please describe each sub-category (e.g., woods grown, wild simulated) and, if available, what quantities have been harvested and certified?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wild simulated, which had no harvest reported and Woods grown which also had no harvest reported .
<p>Is there a minimum allowable size/age for harvest of wild and/or artificially propagated ginseng in your State or Tribe?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No change. Wild ginseng must show three (3) prongs, a flowering or fruiting stalk, and have at least four (4) internodes on the root.
<p>Is harvest allowed on State or tribal lands?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No change. The harvest of ginseng is not allowed on State lands.
<p>Does your State or Tribe require diggers to have written permission from private landowners before harvesting? Do dealers need to supply copies of these written permissions when having ginseng certified?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No change. Owner permission is required. Written permission is recommended.
<p>Please provide the average age of wild-harvested ginseng from your State or tribal lands.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not available.
<p>Please provide an estimate of the average number of roots per pound (dry weight) of wild ginseng harvested in your State for the most current season, and describe the methodology you used to calculate the estimate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 298 roots per pound. Six (6) barrels from three (3) dealers in the two (2) primary regions of Indiana were randomly selected and sampled. Two lbs of roots per dealer, one pound at a time, were weighed and counted to provide a shared total of six (6) samples. The combined count from each of these six (6) samples was added then divided by six (6) to provide the mean number of roots per pound statewide.
<p>Does your State or Tribe require or encourage diggers to plant seeds from harvested wild ginseng plants at the site of harvest? If so, please describe any guidelines. Does your State or Tribe allow diggers to plant ginseng seeds from other sources (e.g., commercial sources)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No change. The planting of the harvested seeds is required by Indiana Administrative Code. It is encouraged by the State through digger literature and by the ginseng dealers in general. Limited guidelines are given for planting the seeds with no restrictions on commercial seeds.
<p>Based on your information, what is the effect of the current harvest level of American ginseng in your State or on your tribal lands on the wild population (positive, negative, no impact)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have no evidence that indicates the current harvest level is having an impact.

Please provide your assessment of the status of ginseng in the State or on your tribal lands (i.e., stable, increasing, declining). If population levels are declining, please provide the State's or Tribe's professional assessment of the reason for the decline and any steps being taken to address it.

- The ginseng population appears to be stable.

On a separate piece of paper, please provide a brief description of any research, including ginseng population monitoring, being conducted in your State or Tribe on American ginseng.

- We are unaware of any research being conducted at this time.

Please provide details of any ginseng-related violations found and/or prosecuted in your State or on your tribal lands during the last year.

The IDNR Division of Law Enforcement reports there were 134 enforcement actions in 2014. They included 123 charges and 11 warnings in 20 Indiana counties. 49 actions were for hunting ginseng without landowner consent, 68 for possession out of season, 15 for illegal harvesting, and 2 for dealing without a license.

INDIANA
CITES EXPORT PROGRAM
GINSENG TREND DATA SHEET FOR 2014 HARVEST

County of origin	lbs. wild ginseng harvested (dry weight)		Present abundance of wild ginseng* (0, 1, 2, 3)	Current trend in wild ginseng populations** (-2, -1, 0, +1)
Adams	0		0	-2
Allen	1 # 0.11 oz		2	0
Bartholomew	18 # 10.50 oz		2	0
Benton	0		0	-2
Blackford	0		0	0
Boone	2 # 7.00 oz		2	0
Brown	137 # 6.75 oz		2	0
Carroll	36 # 5.75 oz		2	0
Cass	17 # 7.00 oz		2	0
Clark	106 # 2.50 oz		2	+1
Clay	148 # 7.13oz		2	+1
Clinton	0		0	-2
Crawford	191 # 3.25 oz		3	+1
Daviess	47 # 12.85 oz		2	0
Dearborn	70 # 9.25 oz		2	+1
Decatur	78 # 6.00 oz		2	0
DeKalb	0		0	0
Delaware	7 # 14.00 oz		2	0
Dubois	15 # 6.60 oz		2	+1
Elkhart	1 # 7.00 oz		2	0
Fayette	72 # 10.00 oz		2	0
Floyd	23 # 13.00 oz		2	0
Fountain	137 # 10.00 oz		2	+1
Franklin	473 # 10.50 oz		3	+1
Fulton	17 # 10.00 oz		2	0
Gibson	38 # 0.00 oz		2	0
Grant	27 # 12.00 oz		2	0
Greene	486 # 1.50 oz		3	+1
Hamilton	0		0	-2
Hancock	0		0	0
Harrison	384 # 13.75 oz		3	+1
Hendricks	2 # 10.00 oz		2	0
Henry	7 # 2.00 oz		2	0
Howard	0		0	-2
Huntington	25 # 6.00 oz		2	0
Jackson	84 # 11.00 oz		2	0
Jasper	0		0	-2
Jay	0 # 15.00 oz		0	0
Jefferson	67 # 4.75 oz		2	0
Jennings	185 # 5.50 oz		3	0
Johnson	135 # 10.00 oz		2	0
Knox	38 # 0.07 oz		2	0
Kosciusko	28 # 0.00 oz		2	0
Lagrange	11 # 5.00 oz		2	0
Lake	0		0	-2
LaPorte	32 # 13.00 oz		2	-1
Lawrence	410 # 3.5 oz		3	+1
Madison	3 # 13.00 oz		2	0

County of origin	lbs. wild ginseng harvested (dry weight)		Present abundance of wild ginseng* (0, 1, 2, 3)	Current trend in wild ginseng populations** (-2, -1, 0, +1)
Marion	4 # 6.00 oz		2	0
Marshall	12 # 8.00 oz		2	0
Martin	243 # 9.50 oz		3	+1
Miami	24 # 8.00 oz		2	0
Monroe	273 # 5.00 oz		3	+1
Montgomery	51 # 11.52 oz		2	0
Morgan	375 # 11.50 oz		3	+1
Newton	0		0	0
Noble	13 # 3.00 oz		2	0
Ohio	5 # 4.00 oz		2	0
Orange	323 # 14.00 oz		3	+1
Owen	540 # 7.91 oz		3	+1
Parke	360 # 3.58 oz		3	0
Perry	81 # 6.25 oz		2	+1
Pike	50 # 6.69 oz		2	0
Porter	2 # 2.00 oz		2	0
Posey	33 # 14.43 oz		2	0
Pulaski	6 # 4.00 oz		0	-2
Putnam	365 # 1.42 oz		3	+1
Randolph	1 # 0.00 oz		2	0
Ripley	296 # 5.75 oz		3	+1
Rush	1 # 2.00 oz		2	0
Saint Joseph	3 # 10.00 oz		2	0
Scott	65 # 14.75 oz		2	0
Shelby	5 # 0.00 oz		2	0
Spencer	19 # 2.00 oz		2	0
Starke	0		0	0
Steuben	12 # 3.00 oz		2	0
Sullivan	69 # 8.30 oz		2	0
Switzerland	17 # 10.22 oz		2	0
Tippecanoe	59 # 7.93 oz		2	0
Tipton	0		0	-2
Union	41 # 2.00 oz		2	0
Vanderburgh	38 # 9.25 oz		2	0
Vermillion	115# 14.40 oz		2	+1
Vigo	123 # 8.75 oz		2	+1
Wabash	64 # 0.35 oz		2	0
Warren	82 # 2.16 oz		2	0
Warrick	29 # 1.15 oz		2	0
Washington	527 # 5.00 oz		3	+1
Wayne	23 # 12.00 oz		2	0
Wells	2 # 9.00 oz		2	0
White	2 # 7.00 oz		2	0
Whitley	9 # 2.00 oz		2	0

*Present abundance of ginseng:

0=absent, 1=rare, 2 occurring, 3=frequent

**Trend in wild ginseng populations:

-2=extirpated, -1=decreasing, 0=stable, +1=increasing

SUBSTITUTE for Form 3-200-61

Indiana Ginseng Comparison

June, 2015

Date of Season	Number of Dealers	Type	Pounds	Ounces	Average number of roots per pound:	Dollars per pound:
2014-15	27	wild	7831	8.39	298.25	\$500.00*
		Cultivated				*major fluctuations
2013-14	27	wild	4822	7.17	352.5	\$800.00
		Cultivated				
2012-13	28	wild	1946	7.84	325	\$675.00
2011-12	29	wild	3477	3.7	331	\$425.00
		green	54	5		
2010-11	29	wild	3940	5	528	\$600-\$250
2009-10	29	wild	7137	6.88	441	\$400.00
2008-09	35	wild	4623	1.16	318	\$250.00
2007-08	30	wild	3888	2	430	\$585.83
2006-07	26	wild	5096	12.25	488	\$396.67
		green	-	-		
2005-06	29	wild	4,923	1	373	\$289.68
		green	-	-		
2004-05	31	wild	4,819	0	426	\$261.40
		green	-	-		
2003-04	34	wild	6,915	5	323	\$284.00
		green	-	-		
2002-03	42	wild	3,192	5	351	\$325.00
		green	1	-		
2001-02	52	wild	7,047	11	335	\$213.00
		green	1	-		
2000-01	51	wild	6,273	6.5	229	\$300.00
		green	-	-		
1999-00	53	wild	3,433	5	378	\$395.00
		green	20	1		
1998-99	42	wild	4,693	11	461	\$240.00
		green	-	-		
1997-98	55	wild	9,044	2	377	\$250.00
		green	1	-		
1996-97	68	wild	11,910	1	502	\$260.00
		green	5	12		
1995-96	70	wild	9,877	8.5	242	\$350.00
		green	-	-		
1994-95	68	wild	7,480	6.25	362	\$240.00
		green	-	-		