



West Virginia Division of Forestry
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Joe Manchin III, Governor
Randy Dye, Director/State Forester

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All Ginseng Roots Must Be Weighed and Certified by March 31
Poor market conditions are causing diggers to hold onto supplies until
next season

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Tuesday, March 31, is the deadline for all dry ginseng roots within the state of West Virginia to be certified and weighed. Anyone who fails to meet this deadline could risk a fine or even jail time. Starting April 1 through August 31, it is illegal to possess any ginseng roots that have not been certified or do not have certified weight receipts attached.

Robin Black, a technical assistant with the Division of Forestry who oversees the agency's ginseng program, says that the decline in ginseng prices is causing diggers and dealers to hold onto the roots in hopes that the market will rise. "Due to fluctuating prices, people are deciding to keep ginseng roots in their possession until the market is more favorable," Black said. "This is no problem as long as those folks make sure to have the roots weighed and certified before the March 31 deadline."

Black says that to accommodate this trend, some Forestry personnel in areas with more ginseng diggers and dealers have scheduled time on the next two Saturdays to weigh and certify ginseng roots. The Division of Forestry maintains 10 weigh stations throughout West Virginia. A list of those weigh stations can be obtained through Forestry's Web site, www.wvforestry.com, or by calling Black at (304) 558-2788 or e-mailing her at Robin.S.Black@wv.gov.

"I have issued more weight receipts this year than in the past," Black added. "If someone has ginseng he or she wants to hold over until next season, that person should call their local Division of Forestry office as soon as possible to make arrangements to see one of our foresters."

For more information about ginseng, visit the Division of Forestry's Web site at www.wvforestry.com.

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