Forestry & Wildlife Program
DIVISION OF EXTENSION
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–MADISON

Tracking Your Wild-Simulated American Ginseng

This worksheet helps landowners assess potential ginseng growing sites, record conditions, and track development over time, from planting through harvest. *Checkbox items in italics represent ideal conditions.* Fill out as much information as possible, but omit anything you are unsure about. Complete pages 1 and 2 while planting and keep a copy for your records. Submit a copy to Extension and use page 3 to track your plot each year after planting (email forestry@extension.wisc.edu)

Landowner and Plot Information

Landowner name(s)

Email address

Plot number, name, and/or landmark reference

County

Indicator Species

Check all plant species currently present in or near (within 20 feet of) your plot.

Canopy trees

- ☐ *Sugar maple*
- ☐ Basswood
- ☐ Butternut
- ☐ Red oak

Other tree species:

Understory plants

- ☐ *Wild ginseng*
- ☐ *Maidenhair or rattlesnake fern*
- ☐ *Blue cohosh*
- ☐ *Jack-in-the-pulpit*
- ☐ *White baneberry*

Other understory plants:

Average tree diameter (check one)

☐ Less than 10 inches ☐ 10 to 20 inches ☐ *More than 20 inches*

Site Characteristics and Topography

Exposure (orientation) (check one)

☐ *Facing north, east, or northeast* ☐ Facing south, southeast, or northwest ☐ Facing west or southwest

Slope (check one)

☐ Level (less than 10% slope) ☐ *10% to 25% slope* ☐ 25% or greater slope

Site surface (check one)

- ☐ *Few surface rocks, 75% of site plantable*
- ☐ Some surface rocks, 50% plantable
- ☐ Very stony, 25% to 50% plantable
- ☐ Large rock outcropping or many boulders, less than 25% plantable

Soil texture (check one)

- ☐ Sandy
- ☐ Silty
- ☐ *Loamy*
- ☐ Clay

Soil pH

Soil calcium (ppm or lbs/acre)

Estimated canopy cover (check one)

☐ Nearly 100% shade (full shade) ☐ *Around 75% shade* ☐ 50% shade or less

Site Preparation and Protection

Pre-prep leaf litter depth (in)

Soil and surface preparation method (check all that you used)

☐ Surface prep: leaf litter removed, exposed mineral soil
☐ Light raking: shallow raking to top 1 to 2 inches of topsoil
☐ Minimal disturbance: direct hand insertion through existing litter (no raking)

Invasive species removal conducted on or near plot (list species removed and methods used)

Plot protection from people and wildlife (for example, deer exclosure fencing, brush barrier, security camera)

Planting Details

Planting date (MM/DD/YY)

Type of plant materials used

☐ *Stratified seed*
☐ Unstratified seed
☐ Rootlets (write age in years)

Total area planted (square feet)

Seeding density (seeds per square foot)

Seed source

Planting technique (for example, "broadcast evenly by hand and raked in" or "planted in rows")

Post-planting mulch (check all you used)

☐ Original litter replaced
☐ New leaf mulch added
☐ Other mulch material

Final mulch depth (in)

Primary mulch material

Additional field notes and baseline observations (for example, list any soil amendments you used)

Tracking Your Ginseng Plot

Now that you have planted your plot, it's time to track its success over time! Each year, fill out **one row** of the table below. Each fall, send a copy of the updated table to Extension (email forestry@extension.wisc.edu).

Plot ID:		**Seed source:**		**Original planting date:**
Year	**Number of ginseng plants in plot**	**Average number of prongs per plant**	**Average number of berries per plant**	**Notes (disease, pest, disturbance, etc.)**

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Extension forestry educators lead classes and programs to engage landowners in the stewardship of Wisconsin's privately owned woodlands. We invite you to connect with us on social media, subscribe to our email newsletter, explore our website, and attend a future Extension event.

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