

Suggested protocol for testing potential woodland Ginseng growing sites

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Purchase good quality seed and or rootlets from reputable dealers

- Purchase only stratified seed
- Handle and store seed properly before planting
- Fall planting (Late September to Late October) is most common and successful planting time in northeast region

Surface sterilize seed with mild bleach solution



“Float” seed to test viability



Smiling Seed is Ready to Grow



Bad Seed



After Surface sterilization

- Rinse thoroughly with cool, clean water and allow to air dry
- Do not allow to dry out completely
- Store in baggies until ready to seed
- Count out batches of 50 seeds per batch
- 400 to 500 seeds per ounce

Assemble Your tools



Measure 3 foot square test plots



Rake away leaf litter and scratch the surface to expose mineral soil



Get help if necessary



Evenly broadcast 50 seeds per plot



Walk on bed to insure good soil contact, return leaf mulch



Mark test sites well



Survey for slugs with traps or fruit



Slugs are Nocturnal



Slugs can Devastate Seedlings



Count seedlings as soon as they
emerge in spring



First Year Ginseng Seedlings

Monitor test plots weekly



Expand most promising sites



Alarms and Cameras



A Word About Worms

Comparison: jumping worm vs. European nightcrawler



Jumping worm

Brown/gray

Bodies are sleek, dry, smooth and firm

Thrash violently when disturbed; snake-like movement

Mature worm 4-5 inches long

Light colored, smooth clitellum* that is flush with body, relatively close to head. Completely encircles body.

European nightcrawler

Pink/reddish

Bodies are thick, slimy, floppy

Wiggle and stretch when disturbed.

Mature worm 6-8 inches long

Reddish or pink clitellum* slightly raised from rest of body. Partially encircles body (like a saddle).

Be Prepared to Protect

