



Ginseng

Seed &

Supplies

Australia

Thanks for visiting our web site.

Our aim is promote and encourage new and established growers to produce more, organic, fresh ginseng root and value added products. We know that Australian root, when grow with the best organic practices, is a very high quality product. In Australia we have a clean environment. In some areas we also have suitable climatic conditions for the growing cycle of ginseng.

On our travels and through our associations, we have been fortunate to observe the practices of ginseng growers in Australia, New Zealand and Korea. It has become obvious that ginseng can grow in quite different soil and environments. To be successful in producing commercial quantities of ginseng, we should consider the finer points related to the results achieved in these different environments.

## Panax Ginseng (Korean Ginseng)

This is a basic guide to help you succeed with your ginseng growing adventure. As you are aware, ginseng farming is a lengthy process. There will be other points that you should familiarise yourself with to ensure your continued success. Further reading should done on plant care –bed preparation, feeding, water, pests, disease, etc. Becoming involved with the Australian Ginseng Growers Association would give you an opportunity to meet with others of like mind and draw on their experience. [www.ginseng.org.au](http://www.ginseng.org.au)

### Stratification process

Stratification is a three phase process.

The warm cycle after seed harvest (clean seed) 3 months at 15-20°C ( develops the embryo).

The cold cycle (0-5°C range is OK) 4°C recommended triggers the germination mechanism.

The warm period 15-20°C following will start the germination.

Some seeds may wait until the following year to germinate!

All of your seeds should be mixed with river sand 1:3 (seed:sand) and stored at 4°C , 10% moisture, until the end of december to make the stratifying process final by next spring ( 2008). Pebbles in an onion bag keep the top seeds from drying when covering the seed sand mix. Plastic buckets in the refrigerator work well.

The process of stratification is necessary for your seeds to germinate. Little is understood of how this occurs. However without the process, little success is achieved.

This method and timing gives up to eight months of growing period after germination to develop a strong root capable of surviving the winter dormancy period. Your seeds have been imported from South Korea where the seasons are out of synchronization with our own in Australia. Some seeds may not germinate in the first year. Be patient and keep the conditions well for them. Although the seeds should not be wet, they should be kept moist at all times. The storage / stratification process helps to do this.

Seeds should be kept with about 10% moisture.

#### Timing for Stratification

Store fresh unstratified seeds 2-3°C (Slowly cool over 12hrs is more desirable) until the end of December.

Then slowly warm to 15°C.

Warm stratify period: (15°C) 1<sup>st</sup> Jan- to the end of March.

Cold stratify: (4°C) 1<sup>st</sup> April- to the end of June.

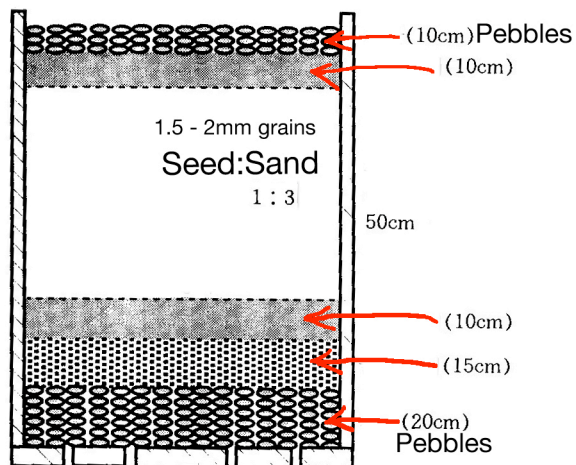
Warm slowly: (10-15°C) 1<sup>st</sup> July to the end of August.

Plant: Beginning of September if germination has not already started. Try to be ready for planting before the seeds germinate.

They can be easily damaged at this stage.

### Stratifying box diagram:

Separate layers with fly mesh / screen



The layers of pebbles, coarse sands and sand seed mix provide a porous storage medium for the seeds. Water is applied from the top keeping the seeds moist not wet. The water quickly drains out the bottom. 10%-15% moisture is desirable.

### Optimum growing conditions

75-85% shade.

Soil acidity pH 5.0-6.5

High, organic matter content.

High calcium levels (5,500kg/Ha).

Loam to clay soils that are well draining not wet.

South facing slopes or flat ground with raised beds.

A distinct, four season climate with a cold winter (not tropical, humid conditions).

Leaf litter mulch to cover beds. This protects the seeds from drying out.

**DO NOT PLANT THE SEEDS MORE THAN 5mm DEEP.**

Scattering the seeds and lightly covering with soil works well.

Generous mulch cover.

The seeds can be planted close together. One year old rootlets should be transplanted into beds allowing space between plants of about 15-30cm to help control fungal problems.

Happy growing!

Paul Redding

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