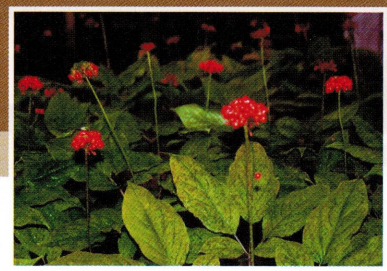


Ren shen 人參

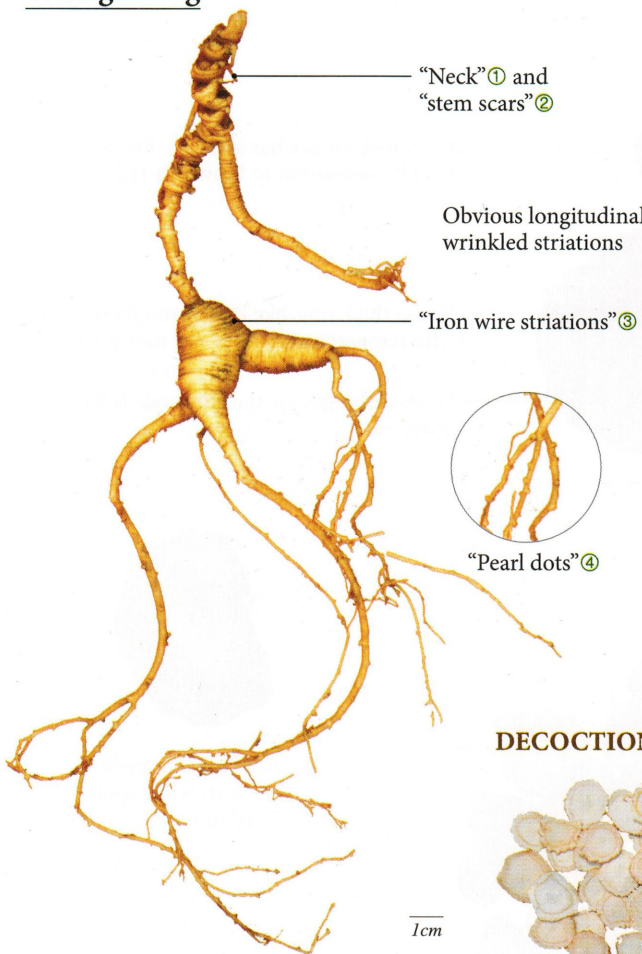
Ginseng Radix et Rhizoma



Panax ginseng C. A. Mey.

- Origin** ▶ The dried root and rhizome of *Panax ginseng* C. A. Mey. (Araliaceae).
- Production Regions** ▶ Primarily produced in the Chinese provinces of Jilin, Liaoning, and Heilongjiang, as well as the Korean peninsula. The medicinal material is primarily sourced from cultivated plants.
- Harvesting and Post-Harvest Handling** ▶ The roots are generally harvested in autumn, washed clean, and dried in the sun or baked dry.
- Properties and Functions** ▶ Sweet, slightly bitter; neutral. Greatly supplements original *qi*, restores the pulse, secures desertion, supplements the spleen, benefits the lung, engenders body fluids, and quiets the spirit.
- Macroscopic Features** ▶ Fusiform or cylindrical taproot, surface grayish-yellow. **Texture:** Relatively firm; fractured surface is pale yellowish white, powdery. **Odor:** Distinctively aromatic. **Taste:** Slightly bitter, sweet.
- Quality Requirements** ▶ According to traditional experience, superior grade roots are thick, firm, and complete.

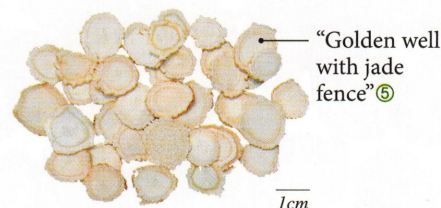
Wild ginseng



Sun-dried ginseng



DECOCTION PIECES ▶



Technical Terms

- ① “Neck:” _____
This refers to the remnants of rhizome seen on the apex of root medicinal materials. It is a feature used in the differentiation of medicinal materials.
- ② “Stem scars:” _____
This refers to the numerous round or semi-circular concave scars of withered stems that can be seen on the “neck”; they are shaped like small bowls.
- ③ “Iron wire striations”: _____
This refers to dark-colored, round striations that are present on the outer surface of the upper portion of the taproot of wild ginseng. It is a diagnostic feature used in the identification of wild ginseng.
- ④ “Pearl dots:” _____
This refers to small protuberances on the fine rootlets of wild ginseng; these are also called “pearl bumps.”
- ⑤ “Golden well with jade fence”: _____
This refers to the pattern seen on the cut surface of the root and rhizome. The central core (xylem) is yellowish (“golden well”) while the outer layer (phloem) is yellowish-white (“jade fence”).

NOTES

1. Field-cultivated ginseng is also called “garden ginseng (*yuan shen*); ginseng that is planted in the forest in the wild environment and left to grow naturally is called “under the forest ginseng (*lin xia shen*)” or “sea of seeds (*zi hai*).”
2. At present, standardized plantation sites have been established in Jilin province in the regions of Jingyu, Linjiang, Changbai, Ji’an, and Fusong.