

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

Date: December 05, 2023

Report Number: CH2023-0181

Report Name: American Ginseng Officially Approved for Use as A Food Ingredient in China

Country: China - People's Republic of

Post: Guangzhou ATO

Report Category: MISC-Commodity

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Approved By: Jon Flemings

Report Highlights:

Effective November 9, 2023, American ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*) has been approved for use as a food ingredient in China. This notice should create additional opportunities by allowing the product to be marketed and traded outside of medicinal importation and distribution channels.

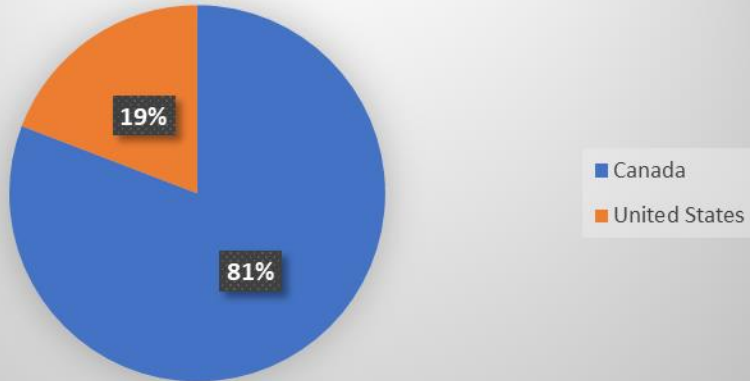
On November 17, 2023, China's National Health Commission (NHC) and State Administration of Market Regulation (SAMR) jointly published a notice (No. 9 effective since November 9, 2023) to regulate nine substances, including American ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*) as both a Chinese medicine and food (see the joint notice in Chinese [here](#), and its explanation in Chinese [here](#)). For more background information related to this notice's issuance, please refer the two previous reports, [CH2022-0053](#) dated May 25, 2022 and [CH2022-0021](#) dated February 25, 2022, written by USDA Foreign Agricultural Service.

American ginseng is commonly used as an herb in traditional Chinese medicine. Although it is native to eastern North America, it is also cultivated in China. The November 17th notice explains that American ginseng has been used as a food ingredient in Shandong and other provinces historically, mainly for making tea, porridge, soap, and cuisines. Prepared by traditional methods (crushing, slicing, pressing, decocting, boiling and soaking in alcohol drinks) and consumed in moderation, American ginseng has not been reported to cause any adverse effect.

The notice also provides relevant guidelines. American ginseng should not be used together with hellebore (*Veratrum nigrum*). Pregnant women, breastfeeding women, and infants are not recommended to consume American ginseng. When American ginseng is used as Chinese medicine or as an ingredient in health foods, it should be managed in accordance with the relevant regulations. The threshold limit values (TLVs in mg/kg based on dried product) for American ginsengs are Lead (Pb) ≤ 1.0 , Cadmium (Cd) ≤ 1.0 , Arsenic (As) ≤ 1.0 , and Mercury (Hg) ≤ 0.3 .

Being considered as a food ingredient should create additional opportunities and allow American ginseng to be traded outside of marketing channels restricted to medicinal importation and distribution. Recognizing that American Ginseng is produced in several countries – including China - it remains to be seen how the market will respond. During the first 10 months of 2023, China imported American ginseng valued at \$87,586,788. The top exporting countries thus far have been Canada, and the United States.

China Imports of American Ginseng 2023 (January-October)



USDA/FAS China will proceed to consult with relevant Chinese authorities to seek clarification on additional changes to facilitate trade in American ginseng imported as a food ingredient. Please stay tuned for future reporting. For general information pertaining to food ingredient importation, please see [here](#) for FAS China's relevant reports.

Attachments:

No Attachments.