Specialty Wood Products

Specialty wood products include the widest variety of products. They are products made from either the whole tree or various parts. These types of products are gaining popularity with the people who desire an environmentally friendly lifestyle or natural and rustic products that signify a local area.

Things to keep in mind:
- Specialty wood products include baskets, barrels, buckets, bowls, butcher blocks, trays, rustic furniture, frames, games, handles, lamps, planters, novelties, toys, walking sticks, dishes, decors, craft wood, trellises, and whatever else the imagination can come up with.
- These products are especially popular with seasonal visitors as they can take a piece of local “flavor” home with them.
- If you plan on clearing brush and debris from your woodlands, an option might be to locate a craftsman or gift and craft stores that would be interested in using these raw materials.

For additional information:

Recreation

Due to overcrowding at popular public parks, and an overall dwindling of natural areas, people are looking to private lands to fulfill their outdoor activities.

As with traditional timber production, producing alternative forest products requires time, research, and preparation.
The Chinese have used Asian ginseng for medicinal purposes for over 4000 years. This is a publication by the University of Idaho College of Agriculture that is accessible on-line.


The steps for growing both cultivated and wild-simulated ginseng include:

- Harvesting
- Drying
- Cleaning
- Packing
- Marketing

For additional information:
- Growing Mushrooms Commercially – Risks and Opportunities, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Department of Natural Resources (407) 255-2115 Agroyofoery Learning Communities in the Northeast www.dnr.cornell.edu/ext/ agroyofoery/ora/ publications.dnr/cornell.edu/extext/ publications.htm
- Publications and fact-sheets for Specialty Forest Products; Recreation; Wildlife/Hunting; Watersheds Office; Sustainable Forest Environment (401) 222-3344
- RI DEM Division of Fish and Wildlife (401) 798-3094 www.dem.rg.gov
- Information on hunting rules, regulations and safety education training To talk with a state wildlife biologist
- Rhode Island Cooperative Extension
- American Ginseng that is found growing naturally wild in Rhode Island is rare and should not be collected or disturbed in any way.
- Ginseng grows best in areas with 80% shade cover, moist, well-drained soils, average air temperature of 50ºF, and average annual rainfall of 40-50". Ginseng has specific soil requirements in order to grow. The additional information below as well as the resources listed on the RI DEM web page will provide you with more information. Have your soil tested before planting to make sure your site is suitable.
- Cultivated ginseng can generally be harvested 3-5 years after planting. Wild simulated ginseng is ready to harvest 9-12 years after planting.
- Producing and Marketing Wild Simulated Ginseng in Forest and Agroforestry Systems Virginia Cooperative Extension, Publication Number 354-312, covers:
  - The steps for growing both cultivated and wild-simulated ginseng
  - Marketing ginseng
  - Economics of growing ginseng available on-line at www.ext.vt.edu/pubs/ forestry/354-312/354-312.html

Floral Greenery
Many people enjoy having floral arrangements as centerpieces in their home and at a variety of gatherings such as weddings and other parties. Many also enjoy hanging holiday wreaths, as well as adorning the home with a variety of floral decorations year-round. With the right type of tree and shrub species you can supply these decorative products.

Things to keep in mind:
- Commonly harvested floral products include pine cones, boughs from cedar, pine, spruce, fir and hemlock, branches from alder, birch and ironwood, mountain laurel, holly, ferns, dogwood, grape vines, sumac, cattails, club moss, white birch bark, winterberry, and pussy willows. Be aware of invasive plants and do not plant them in your woodlands. Refer to factsheet Working for Biodiversity and Protection from Invasive Species for more information.
- A wide variety of craft stores, wholesale and florists could be interested in what is growing in your woodlands.

For additional information:
- Chapter 9 – Greenery, Transplants, and Floral Products. Margaret G. Thomas and David R. Schumann. 1993
- North American Mushrooms
- For Biodiversity and Protection from Invasive Species
- Growing Mushrooms Commercially – Risks and Opportunities
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