
TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATION

1. NAME OF THE GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATION

Chinese name: 西峡香菇

Transcription in Latin characters: Xixia Xiang Gu

Translation for information purposes: Xixia Mushroom

2. CATEGORY OF THE PRODUCT FOR WHICH THE NAME IS PROTECTED

Fruit, vegetables and cereals fresh or processed - Mushroom

3. APPLICANT

Applicant Name: People's Government of Xixia County, Henan Province.

Address: Administrative center of Xixia County, Henan Province, P.R. China, 474500

4. PROTECTION IN CHINA

Date of Protection: December 24th, 2008;

Proof of Protection: The General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of the People's Republic of China (AQSIQ), Notice (2008) No. 140

5. DESCRIPTION OF PRODUCT

The spawn of Xixia Xiang Gu (Xixia Mushroom) is NO.9608. It is mainly grown in winter and spring purposely when the climate and environment are suitable. The cultivation medium are made of non-polluted sawdust of basswood on the mountain. The culture of Xixia Xiang Gu(Xixia Mushroom) is put on shelves in sheds to be clean, environment-friendly and pest and pollution free. All the above technologies and conditions contribute to such unique mushrooms in Xixia: round caps, tight and thick flesh, bright colors, thick stem, neat folds, fresh and smooth taste.

After years of practice, the physical appearance of Xixia Xiang Gu (Xixia Mushroom)can be classified as follows:

(1) Physical appearance

Classes	Diameter (cm)	Thickness (cm)	Requirements
Super	4-6	≥ 3	without handles; white, round and perfect caps; large and curled edges; natural patterns, and deep cracks; tidy and beige gills
First-class	4-6	≥ 2	without handles; in perfect mushroom shape; white caps; large and curled edges; natural patterns; tidy and beige gills
Second-class	3-7	≥ 2	without handles; round caps, curled edges, shallow and dark brown cracks; tidy beige gills, and not flattened

(2) Chemical properties

Items	Index
Water(%)	≤ 13.0
Sugar (%)	≥ 40.0
Crude Protein(%)	≥ 15.0
Crude Fibre(%)	≤ 6.0
Ash(%)	≤ 7.0

6. CONCISE DEFINITION OF THE GEOGRAPHICAL AREA

Geographic boundaries: The Administrative regions of the 15 towns in Xixia County of Henan Province including Dan Shui Town, Tian Guan Town, Yang Cheng Town, Hui Che Town, Wu Liqiao Town, Ding He Town, Chong Yang Town, Xi Ping Town, Mi Ping Town, Jun Mahe Town, Sang Ping town, Shi Jiehe Town, Shuang Long Town , Zhai Gen Town and Er Langping Town.

Specific production steps: batching → bagging →sterilizing → inoculating →the fungus puncturing →summering management → accelerating the fruiting →harvesting →processing →packaging.

All the production steps mentioned above are carried out in the 15 towns above by local peasants.

7. LINK WITH THE GEOGRAPHICAL AREA

Xixia Xiang Gu (Xixia Mushroom) is complete in shape and boasts dense texture, thick flesh, bright colors, firm stem and well-arranged gills. It tastes fresh, tender and smooth with unique features. As a result of its premium mushroom safety and quality, high nutrition ingredients, Xixia Xiang Gu (Xixia Mushroom) is greatly favored by consumers, therefore Xixia is referred as the “Hometown of Mushroom in China”. The quality of this mushroom is closely related to such factors as the climate, soil, environment and regional culture of Xixia.

(1) Link with the geographical characteristics

Xixia County lies in the southwest of Henan Province, the south side of Funiu Mountain which is an eastern wing of Qinling Mountains. It is the place where Henan Province, Hubei Province and Shaanxi Province connect to each other. Covering an area of 3,454 square kilometers , it is the second largest county of Henan Province. Its northern part is deep mountain area which consists of 57.3% of the county’s total land area and its central part is shallow mountain area which consists of 28.1% of the county’s total land area and its southeastern part is rolling terrain area which makes up 11.4% of the land area and small basins between mountains surround its town of the county which constitutes 3.2%. The elevation of the county ranges from 181 to

2,212.5 meters and its natural gradient is 33%. Above all, the unique geographic characteristics give birth to the fabulous qualities of Xixia Xiang Gu (Xixia Mushroom).

(1) Link with the climate

Xixia is in the northern subtropical monsoon and continental climate zone. It has a mild climate with moderate rainfalls annually adding up to 850 mm, 236.2-day frost-free period, namely, 2,019 hours of sufficient sunlight and a perfect average temperature of 15.2 °C. There are mainly three climate features which contribute much to Xixia Xiang Gu (Xixia Mushroom).

First of all, the planting areas of Xixia Xiang Gu (Xixia Mushroom) are in the mountains, whose altitudes range from 300 meters to 1,000 meters with a temperature range of 15 °C to 18 °C in the day and 5 °C to 8 °C at night, which is very helpful for the mushrooms to slowly accumulate nutrients, and make them be of high quality . Secondly, the intense light and the dry air contribute a lot to the natural growth of mushroom pattern and make them white enough. Thirdly, the growth period of Xixia Xiang Gu (Xixia Mushroom) lasts very long, for example, hypha cultivation usually takes 200 days or more, so there are adequate nutrition accumulation in the body and result in fine qualities and high yield of mushrooms.

(3) Link with soil and wood conditions

Xixia County has the largest forestry coverage among all counties in Henan Province. And the forestry land area is 2,800 sq. km, the stock of living wood 8,210,000 cubic meters, and the forest coverage rate of 76.8%. The soil is very suitable for the growth of oak, which is the ideal raw material for mushroom planting. According to the research results of Forest Products Chemical Department of Chinese Forestry Science Research Institute, Xixia oak contains 24.82% of lignin, 0.97% crude protein, and 47.68% crude fiber. The annual increment of Xixia oak is up to 200,000 cubic meters, of which more than a half can be used for mushrooms cultivation, and this lays a firm and constant resource foundation for the production of high-qualified Xixia Xiang Gu

(Xixia Mushroom).

(4) Link with cultural features

Xixia County is one of the most suitable areas in China for mushrooms, and edible fungus industry here has long been established. According to the records of *Xixia County*, Xixia was once the export base of button mushroom of the whole province in the 1970's and also its basswood black fungus output ranked first in the 80's. People began to plant mushrooms here from as early as the year 1974, and bag mushrooms in 1995. Since 1997, mushroom planting in the county has kept a scale of above 100 million bags, as well as 260 thousand tons annual output of fresh mushroom, creating a value of 3,000 million yuan. The production accounts for about one tenth of the whole country, making it the country's largest mushrooms production base.

8. SPECIFIC RULES CONCERNING LABELLING AND USING (IF ANY)

None

9. CONTROL BODY / CONTROL AUTHORITY RESPONSIBLE FOR CHECKING THE RESPECT OF THE PRODUCT SPECIFICATIONS

Nanyang Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine Bureau