



The Table Rock Tea Consortium is an informal affiliation of tea farmers local to the Table Rock Mountain area, with Table Rock Tea Company, Ltd. as its central processing facility.

### **How does it Work?**

- Anyone interested in planting tea (*Camellia sinensis*) on a larger scale than personal use may join the consortium.
- Tea plants and seeds are bought in bulk from Table Rock Tea Company to be planted by the farmer on the farmer's land.
- Table Rock Tea Company provides training and expertise to the farmer to become a successful grower.
- Following standardized harvesting guidelines, the farmer will be able to sell bulk quantity fresh leaves to Table Rock Tea Company as a consistent, primary buyer.
- Fresh leaves are brought to Table Rock Tea Company's central processing facility, where they will be weighed and paid for at a set market price per pound.

### **What are the Benefits to the Farmer?**

- Tea can be planted almost anywhere in the Table Rock area, allowing the farmer to gain profitable use from otherwise unproductive land.
- Farmers own their land and their plants.
- Farmers have a consistent, local, immediate buyer for their bulk harvest.
- Tea is fairly easy to maintain and is typically ready to harvest at 4-6 years old. Plants bought from Table Rock Tea Company are already 1 ½-years old. Tea plants remain productive for an average of 50 years and can live into the hundreds.
- *Camellia sinensis* is an excellent landscaping plant that looks good even if the farmer no longer wishes to harvest for profit.