

AN EIGHT-ACRE BLACK WALNUT PLANTATION:

HISTORY AND OBSERVATIONS 1982 - 1994

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Abstract: In 1982 a black walnut (*Juglans nigra*) plantation was partly established by planting 200 1-0 seedlings on the first bench adjacent to Copper Creek near its mouth draining into the Clinch River, Scott County, Virginia. In the following years, 50-500 1-0 black walnut seedlings, supplemented by transplanting germinated nuts in failed spots, were planted on the first and second benches until a total of approximately 1600 were established through 1990.

Deer, rabbits, ground hogs, mice, fusarium and herbicide drift from a 175-foot tall railroad trestle all affected the growth of the seedlings as recorded in a diary kept by the author to back up tax credits and amortization claims under the 1980 Federal Reforestation Act.

Site preparation was done by chain saw, hand tools, hack and squirt method and with the use of a propane soldering torch.

The average diameter at breast height and the average height of selected 1-0 pruned crop trees planted in 1982, 1983, 1985 and 1986 were 6.16, 4.30, 3.40 and 3.66 inches and 32.59, 23.19, 19.78, and 18.78 feet respectively in the fall of 1994.

The paper is specific as to feelings of failure, success and experiences in establishing the plantation.

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