

Streamside

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nut species. The table on page one lists some of the tributaries and tree species that are commonly found in the Licking River Valley.

If the establishment of a SMZ is warranted on your property, consider reforestation 1/2 acres per year. Specific planting mixtures should be based on aesthetic qualities, wildlife needs, timber markets, and most importantly, site characteristics. Multiple species that are planted some-

what randomly will allow individual specimens to find their particular niche and give the planting a more natural appearance. Only native species should be planted and planting should begin on the most critical sites.

The establishment and protection of SMZs should be a top priority to ensure that the people of this area have a healthy living environment. They will provide clean water, stable streambanks, greater aesthetic beauty, and improved fish and wildlife habitat conditions. If you have any questions or you would like more information, please contact your local Division of Forestry office.

What About Black Walnut?

Black walnut rates as one of Kentucky's most recognized and most valuable tree species. Its distinctive, dark colored heartwood is used in beautiful furniture and specialty items such as grandfather clocks and gun stocks. In addition to the timber value of black walnut, it produces a consistent nut crop that is quite desirable. The annual harvest of walnuts can provide a tasty treat or if they are gathered more intensively, they can generate a source of supplemental income.

Since black walnut trees are so desirable and they naturally grow in productive areas, this tree species should be definitely be considered as a candidate for planting in many Stream Management Zone areas. However, prior to planting black walnut seedlings each site should be thoroughly analyzed. Black walnuts require moderately deep soils that are at least 24 inches and preferably 30-40 inches in depth. Although these soils may be

flooded occasionally, their texture should allow for good internal drainage and have good moisture holding capacity. Fertile silt loams and sandy loams with high organic matter and a pH of 6.0 - 7.5 are usually best.

Avoid sites that have clay soils since they will not drain well and clay hard pans will also impede root growth. Although occasional flooding is tolerable, avoid planting black walnut in frequently flooded areas and in areas where water may typically remain for more than 2 days. Trees that are flooded for 3-5 days during the dormant season may survive but some permanent damage is likely.

Some site preparation work will need to be completed prior to planting and seedlings will need to be ordered a few months in advance. Late summer or early fall is the best time to prepare for a spring planting. Generally, March and April are the most desirable months for planting bare root in Kentucky.



Grass Vegetation Protects Stream Bank

Mark Lupold
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In many cases, along smaller streams and waterways adjacent to cultivated fields, lower growing, meadow type of cover is the desired choice for stream bank protection. Tall fescue, bluegrass, and reed canarygrass are good soil forming grasses for soil protection along streams. Other cover, reed, switchgrass, big bluestem, eastern gamma grass, indiangrass and prairie

cordgrass are other meadow plants suitable for stream bank protection. Perennial ryegrass or a small grain (wheat, rye, oats) mixed at seeding provides quicker germination and soil cover. Numerous broadleaf weeds, sedges and grasses are native to stream sides and can naturally establish protective cover. Native plant seed is also available from specialized seed companies. Contact your local conservationist, wildlife biologist or agriculture agent for more information.

Constraint	Suggestion	Comments
Soil Type	Well-drained heavy soils	Avoid stony soils or frequently flooded areas
Soil Depth	Greater than 19 inches	Avoid shallow, eroded, or straggan soils
Aspect	North or east facing	Lower slopes
pH	6.0-7.7	Avoid acidic clay subsoils



Glen Wornack, Fleming County, has planted an area in Black Walnut next to a small stream. The growing trees can be seen in the background.

Credits

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