BLACK WALNUT PLANTATIONS AS AN OPTION

A PRIMER IN WALNUT MANAGEMENT

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WHY BLACK WALNUT

• High Dollar Value Species
  • Current NY Market value ranges up to $6,000 per MBF (mill value).
  • Fairly fast growing
  • Resilient, it is resistant to competition and deer damage
  • A great hard mast production tree for wildlife.
    • Can start as early as three to four years.
WHAT IS INVOLVED

• Plantations
  • Quality tree stock is essential
    • I have seen much variation in genetics
  • Proper site preparation
    • Control of weeds, sub soiling ag sites, disking….
  • Money-I think
    • Under normal stocking control of
      • Completing vegetation may be needed
      • Fertilizer under some conditions
      • Pruning under normal plantation stocking
      • DEER CONTROL!!!!!!!!!!! Yes, they eat walnuts too.
WHAT IS INVOLVED

• Multiple herbicide treatments on quality agricultural ground to control competing vegetation.

• Hardwood control

• Fertilizer on some sites.

• Deer control
  • Properly timed fencing
  • And, yes shoot the deer. Nuisance permits and DMAP.

• Some of the above may be less of a concern on non-agricultural lands-not sure.
2017 PHOTO
WHAT HAVE I LEARNED

- Competition for light can be equal to cover from deer. Once competing vegetation is removed the deer can focus on the crop-trees.
- Over stocking provides opportunity for self pruning. The use of tending trees or crops may be useful. Not sure if this has been studied.
- Also, areas with higher amounts of wood completion received less deer pressure.
WHAT HAVE I LEARNED

• Perhaps more publicly available research is needed.
• Don’t do it unless you are prepared to complete it.
  • I have see too many walnut plantations that were planted with no follow through.
  • Plantations of walnuts need tending!!!
  • A lack of pruning = poor quality and reduced returns