



West Virginia Division of Forestry
www.wvforestry.com
Earl Ray Tomblin, Governor
Randy Dye, Director/State Forester

News Release: Sept. 19, 2011

Contact: Leslie Fitzwater, Public Information Specialist, 304-957-9342 or 304-541-8102, Leslie.C.Fitzwater@wv.gov

Black walnut trees are good for wildlife and timber

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Fall is coming to the Mountain State, and as it does, one of the first trees to change and lose its leaves is the black walnut.

A black walnut tree can make a great addition to a landscaping project for several reasons. Black walnuts grow quickly and are good for filling empty spaces. These trees grow tall – often 70 to 100 feet – and must be planted in areas where they do not compete with overhead utility lines. In September, the leaves turn yellow, letting everyone know that autumn is fast approaching.

The minimum seed-bearing age for the black walnut is 12 years. After that time, it can become an excellent source of edible nuts for both humans and wildlife. Squirrels especially enjoy black walnuts and often gather them up before the tree's owners can. Black walnuts make a tasty treat for people too, and every October the town of Spencer hosts the West Virginia Black Walnut Festival. A black walnut baking contest and a pancake breakfast are just two ways this nut is celebrated each year.

The black walnut tree also is one of the state's most valuable forest trees. Black walnut wood is free from warping, able to take high polish and very durable. Lumber from the black walnut tree is used for furniture, cabinets, gunstocks and veneer.

In the wild, black walnut trees can be one of the scarcest of the native hardwood trees. Currently, the largest black walnut tree in the state is located at Alderson in Greenbrier County. It stands more than 94 feet high and has a crown spread of 100 feet.

If you'd like to start growing your own black walnut tree, seedlings are available for purchase from Clements State Tree Nursery in West Columbia, W.Va.

-MORE-

Regional Offices
Farmington 304-825-6983
Beckley 304-256-6775
Milton 304-743-6186



West Virginia Division of Forestry
www.wvforestry.com
Earl Ray Tomblin, Governor
Randy Dye, Director/State Forester

Page 2

Black walnut trees are good for wildlife and timber

Clements, the only state-operated forest tree nursery in West Virginia, sells bare root black walnut seedlings starting at just \$25 per bundle. Each bundle contains 25 seedlings, plenty for you to plant and share with your neighbors, family and friends.

For a complete catalog of seedlings for sale at Clements State Tree Nursery, visit www.wvcommerce.org/resources/forestry/treenursery.aspx or call the nursery at 304-675-1820.

For more information about the Division of Forestry, visit www.wvforestry.com.

#

Regional Offices
Farmington 304-825-6983
Beckley 304-256-6775
Milton 304-743-6186