

Propagation

The Steiner Group black locusts can be propagated from both root cuttings and from micro propagation (tissue culture). Most seedlings are produced from out crossing and seed from Steiner Group black locusts will not have the same superior characteristics as the parental material. Protocols for both methods of propagation are available for nurseries and other interested parties.

Availability of Plant Materials

These cultivars are maintained vegetatively from root cuttings. Breeder/foundation materials are being maintained by the USDA-NRCS National Plant Materials Center, Big Flats Plant Materials Center, and Rose Lake Plant Materials Center and are available to commercial growers for increase or research purposes.



To request plant stock or further information, contact:

USDA-NRCS
National Plant Materials Center
Building 509, BARC-East
Beaver Dam Road
Beltsville, MD 20705
Phone: (301) 504-8175
Fax: (301) 504-8741

For information online:

Visit the Plant Materials Program or NRCS websites to learn more about using plants to address conservation problems.

<http://Plant-Materials.nrcs.usda.gov>
<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov>

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Steiner Group black locusts 'Appalachia' 'Allegheny' 'Algonquin' *Robinia pseudoacacia*



Released by
**National
Plant Materials Center
Beltsville, Maryland**

Steiner Group black locusts: 'Appalachia', 'Allegheny' and 'Algonquin'

The Steiner Group of black locust was released in 1987 by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Forest Service, West Virginia Department of Agriculture and Forestry, and the Agricultural Research Service. The three cultivars are collectively referred to as the **Steiner Group black locusts** and have been assigned the NRCS accession numbers 'Appalachia' 9030613, 'Allegheny' 9030614, and 'Algonquin' 9030615.

These releases were made because existing commercial sources of black locusts have been selected for ornamental appeal and not for vigor, erosion control, ease in establishment, and tolerance to the locust borer. The Steiner Group black locusts have also been selected for straight, un-forked trunks, making them ideal for post and pole production.

Description

The Steiner Group black locusts are native trees that can grow to 30 to 50 feet in height. They have a thick canopy of alternative, pinnately compound 6 to 14 inch long leaflets. 'Appalachian' was selected for its excellent vigor, and form. 'Allegheny' was selected for its excellent vigor, straight unforked trunks and above average DBH (diameter at breast height - 4.5').

'Algonquin' was selected for above average borer resistance and vigor.

Collection Site Information

'Appalachia' was collected between Blackwood and Appalachia Virginia, 'Allegheny' was collected near Bartow, West Virginia and 'Algonquin' was collected near Thornwood, West Virginia.

Method of Selection

The method of selection consisted of assembling over 120 different collections, which were planted and evaluated in Maryland, Ohio, Missouri, Kansas, New Jersey, and throughout the Appalachian region. These plantings were routinely evaluated through the mid-1970s. These were selected for superior growth rate and dominant stem characteristics. Vigor is a very important factor, due to the fact that fast growing trees exhibit the greatest resistance to the locust borer. The wood is extremely hard and durable yet the locust borer can riddle whole trees or whole plantations.

The Steiner Group black locusts are unaltered and have been selected from naturally occurring germplasm. The Steiner Group black locusts do not exhibit any weedy or invasive properties beyond that of the species.

Conservation Uses

The Steiner Group black locusts are extensively utilized for fencing, mine timbers, and landscaping ties. This tree also serves as a good erosion control plant on critical and highly disturbed areas due to its ease of establishment, rapid early growth and soil building capabilities. Black locusts are capable of fixing atmospheric nitrogen which allows them to grow in relatively poor soil. They will not however tolerate growing in shaded areas. To reduce the risk of borer damage planting concentrations of black locust as a species should not exceed twenty percent of all trees used in one contiguous area. To provide genetic diversity it is recommended to plant in the following ratios:

'Appalachian' 10% to 25%

'Allegheny' 10% to 25%

'Algonquin' 80% to 50%

Anticipated Area of Adaptation

The Steiner Group black locusts are adapted to the Appalachian Mountains from NY to AL and in the Upper Midwest.

