

# Announcement of the Steiner Group Black Locust Exclusive Release Using Tissue Culture Protocol Propagation

The U. S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, Forest Service, Agricultural Research Service and the West Virginia Department of Agriculture announced the release of the **Steiner Group** black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia* L.) in 1987.

The **Steiner Group** is comprised of three cultivars, 'Appalachia', 'Allegheny', and 'Algonquin'. They were selected primarily for superior growth rate and dominant stem characteristics. Consideration was also given to the degree of susceptibility to injury from the locust stem borer (*Megacyllene robina*).

Propagation of the black locust clones was entirely from root cuttings during the evaluation period. While this is a reasonable and reliable technique, the cost, combined with the difficulty of producing enough root cuttings, made commercial production economically unattractive.

The development of micropropagation techniques for black locust has dramatically changed the propagation potential, insuring clonal purity.

In 1990, the Soil Conservation Service cooperated with the Department of Forestry at Michigan State University and tested the **Steiner Group's** adaptability of micropropagation. Each of the three cultivars ('Appalachia', 'Allegheny', and 'Algonquin') had excellent response. Thus, a protocol for micropropagation of the **Steiner Group** was prepared. The protocol not only outlines the step-by-step procedure but also includes information helpful to those inexperienced in micropropagation.

The Soil Conservation Service is responsible for developing and testing plants and techniques for conservation use. It is also responsible for identifying and cooperating with nurseries to produce and make available released plant materials to the public.

By way of this article, the Soil Conservation Service is extending a solicitation to interested parties who have the capabilities and desire to produce the **Steiner Group** black locust using micropropagation.

Interested parties are encouraged to respond, in writing, to the following items:

- Do you have tissue culture production facilities?

- What are your production capabilities from the facility?
- Location of facility. Is it within the black locust adaptability range?
- Do you have a greenhouse facility?
- Marketing proposal (plan for production and distribution).
- Examples of other micropropagated plants.
- Previous tissue culture experience.
- Capital investment capability proposal.
- Years in business.

The evaluation of your response by the Soil Conservation Service is an effort by the Service to determine the best means of making available to the public the **Steiner Group**.

Responses and/or inquiries can be submitted to the Soil Conservation Service, Attn. David W. Burgdorf, Plant Materials Specialist, 1405 S. Harrison Rd., Room 101, East Lansing, Michigan 48823-5243. Telephone: 517-337-6701 ext. 1211.

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<sup>1</sup> Poster presented at the Northeastern and Intermountain Forest and Conservation Nursery Association Meeting, St. Louis, Missouri, August 2-5, 1993