

Concurrent Session B1 - Selection, Breeding and Progeny Testing

Whiskey and Trees: Seed Orchards at the Jack Daniel Distillery

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In 1998, the Jack Daniel Distillery decided to support the creation of seedling seed orchards to sustain local wood production of species used in the distilling process. In addition, the Distillery made land available for other species that are important in south central Tennessee for timber and habitat. Collections of open-pollinated progenies of *Acer saccharum* Marsh. (1998), *Quercus alba* L. (1999), *Quercus prinus* L. (1999), *Juglans nigra* L. (1999), and *Juglans cinerea* L. (2005) were made from local trees and planted at the Georgia Forestry Commission's Flint River Nursery. The resulting seedlings were grown for one year and planted as genetic tests that will eventually be thinned to produce seedling seed orchards. Survival, growth, reproductive maturation, and management are discussed.