

### Black Walnut Is Becoming Very Scarce

Harrisburg, Dec. 14.—A State-wide study of black walnut recently conducted by the Pennsylvania Department of Forests and Waters indicates that the original supply of walnut in forests of Pennsylvania is greatly depleted.

Black walnut is the highest priced wood now being cut from the forests of Pennsylvania. It is heavier and harder than mahogany and stronger and stiffer than the famed white oak. It is straight grained, easy to work and seldom checks or warps after seasoning. Approximately 90 per cent. of all the walnut produced is used in the manufacture of furniture, fixtures and cabinets, fire arms, musical instruments and planing mill products. Three hundred and fourteen distinct articles and parts are listed as being made from the wood of black walnut. There is probably less black walnut in Pennsylvania today than any other commercially important timber tree. It still occurs locally throughout the State, but is rare in the northern part where it is often entirely absent over large areas. The best trees in the State are developed in the fertile agricultural valleys of the southwest, eastern and central parts where walnut occurs as scattered specimens among other hardwoods, in fields and along fence rows, or forms small, pure groups on the edge of the forests.

Black walnut is a fast grower. Its rapid growth is partly accounted for because the tree thrives only on fertile soils. Suitable soil, climate and planting stock appear to be three outstanding factors that limit the growing of black walnut and determine success or failure in plantations. This was shown by field examinations of natural stands, individual trees and more than 100 plantations scattered over the State. A large per cent. of the walnut plantations made in early years were failures because the trees were planted indiscriminately.

Soils that will not produce agricultural crops will not grow walnut successfully. Planting should be made in moist locations and deep soils of

good quality. Next to soil is the importance of climate. Black walnut is subject to frost injury in late spring and should not be planted where late frosts occur. Not only the growing tips freeze back but in practically all trees growing in Northern Pennsylvania, except those on first quality soils, the development of frost cracks in the wood was observed.

The third factor of importance is good planting stock and the care with which it is handled. Even with proper soil and climate, poor planting practice is a frequent cause of failure. The large fleshy tap roots of walnut seedlings are easily injured in transplanting. Broken and torn roots should be pruned with a sharp knife. For this reason it is often recommendable to plant the nuts directly on the ground where the trees are to be grown. The walnuts may be gathered on the ground and may be planted with the hulls on.

#### FARM CALENDER

Timely Reminders From the Pennsylvania College of Agriculture

**Grow Winter Vegetables**—Asparagus rhubarb, and Witloff chicory are vegetables which may be produced from December to May. Forcing these vegetables may be done in a cellar where the temperature can be kept from 50 to 60 degrees Fahrenheit.

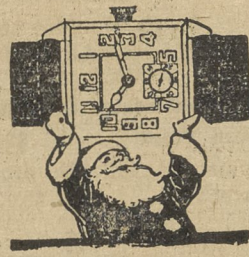
**Preparation Aids Trees**—Black walnut grows well on well drained fertile soil. The Pennsylvania Agricultural Experiment Station has found a 10 per cent greater survival where tree seedlings were planted in furrows instead of unprepared ground.

**Will Show Poultry**—Poultrymen of the State will share a prize fund of \$3500 at the 1930 State Farm Products Show in Harrisburg next month. Turkeys and capons will be shown and there will be classes for all kinds of chickens.

**Eliminate Guesswork**—Plan to take an annual inventory of the farm property at the beginning of the year. Then proceed to keep books on all farm operations. Figures sometimes surprise, for losses may occur where profits were expected. It pays to know these facts.

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