

A Conservation Plant Released by the Natural Resources Conservation Service
 Norman A. Berg National Plant Materials Center, Beltsville, MD

Steiner Group black locusts

Robinia pseudoacacia L.



Steiner group black locust - young tree

The **Steiner Group black locusts** consist of three cultivars, ‘**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. They were assigned the NRCS accession numbers 9030613, 9030614, 9030615, respectively.

These cultivars of black locusts were selected for vigor, erosion control, ease of establishment, and tolerance to the locust borer. The Steiner Group black locusts are ideal for post and pole production due to their straight, un-forked trunks.

Description

The Steiner Group black locusts are native trees growing 30 to 50 feet in height. They have a thick canopy of alternate, pinnately compound leaflets 6 to 14 inch long. ‘Appalachian’ has excellent vigor and form. ‘Allegheny’ has excellent vigor, straight unforked trunks and above average diameter at breast height (DBH). ‘Algonquin’ has above average borer resistance and vigor.

Source

‘Appalachia’ originated from stands of black locust between Blackwood and Appalachia Virginia, ‘Allegheny’ from near Bartow, West Virginia and ‘Algonquin’ near Thornwood, West Virginia.

Assemblages of more than 120 collections were evaluated in the Appalachian regions of Maryland, Ohio, Missouri, Kansas, and New Jersey throughout the mid-1970s. Selections from this assemblage were made for superior growth rate and dominant stem characteristics. Fast growing trees exhibit the greatest resistance to the locust borer, making vigor a very important selection criterion. Black locust 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. They 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. It is a good plant for controlling erosion 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 shaded areas. To reduce the risk of borer damage planting concentrations 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%

Area of Adaptation and Use

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



Establishment and Management for Conservation Plantings

The Steiner Group black locusts are propagated vegetatively to maintain the characteristics of the parent material. Black locust establishes on open sites. Natural establishment is linked to natural and/or man-made

disturbances. Plantings may be managed for posts, firewood, and sawtimber.

Ecological Considerations

This plant is considered noxious and/or invasive in some states. This plant may become weedy or invasive in some regions or habitats and may displace desirable vegetation if not properly managed. Native species exclusion by black locust has been reported in the Northeast, mid-Atlantic, Midwest, California, and parts of Europe. Please consult with your local NRCS Field Office, Cooperative Extension Service office, or state natural resource or agriculture department regarding its status and use. Weed information is also available from the PLANTS Web site at plants.usda.gov.

Seed and Plant Production

The Steiner Group black locusts can be propagated from root cuttings and micro propagation (tissue culture). Seedlings produced from seed of the Steiner Group black locusts will not exhibit the same characteristics as the parental material. Protocols for both methods of propagation are available from the Norman A Berg National Plant Materials Center.

Availability

Cultivars are maintained vegetatively from root cuttings. Breeder 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 for increase to commercial growers and research purposes.

For more information, contact:

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<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/plantmaterials/pmc/northeast/mdpmc/>

Citation

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For additional information about this and other plants, please contact your local USDA Service Center, NRCS field office, or Conservation District <<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/>>, and visit the PLANTS Web site <<http://plants.usda.gov/>> or the Plant Materials Program Web site <<http://www.plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov/>>

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