



# Springboro Tree Farms

ENJOY THE SWEET LIFE!

## Black Walnut

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Juglans nigra*

FAMILY: Juglandaceae

ORIGIN: North America

*Juglans nigra*, the eastern American Black Walnut, is a species of deciduous tree in the walnut family, Juglandaceae, native to North America. It grows mostly in riparian zones, from southern Ontario, west to southeast South Dakota, south to Georgia, northern Florida and southwest to central Texas.



Black Walnut trees were the first species we planted here in 1992. You can see the ones we planted on this trail along highway 18 near our apiary. There we planted about 150 Purdue #1 select seedlings as well as 150 walnut seedlings from the Jasper – Pulaski State nursery. In 1992, the Purdue trees cost \$1.40 each and the trees from the Jasper – Pulaski State nursery were 13 cents each.



We watered the seedlings the first summer to help get them established.

We also controlled weeds and put up an electric fence where we attached pieces of aluminum foil bated with peanut butter to teach the deer to stay away. It worked!

Black Walnut is arguably the most desired wood and has been used for everything from furniture to interior finishes to gunstocks. While the income from selling black walnut trees for lumber may sound like a “sweet deal” what may be an even sweeter deal is that the sap of *Juglans nigra* can be evaporated to make the best syrup you may ever taste. We make small quantities of walnut syrup here at Springboro Tree Farms and often blend it with our wood fired maple syrup to create an unusually good product.