

PLANTING *TORREYA TAXIFOLIA*

COURT LEWIS' NOTES

There are many ways to plant Torreya, but this is one that should work. Of course, the proof is in the pudding and since I just planted the seeds I don't know how many, if any, will germinate and grow. I followed Jack Johnston's suggestion and added some details, so I thought I'd share those and save time for those who might want to use this procedure.

Materials

Large metal cans – 6½ in. diam., 7 in. high (restaurant size for tomatoes/beans) [fig 1]

“Hardware cloth” wire mesh, 24 in x 5 ft roll [fig 2]

Topsoil mixed with Black Kow and/or compost

Preparation

Cut top and bottom out of clean cans [fig 3]

Paint white area on two sides, at top of can [fig 4]

Number cans in sequence, both sides [fig 5]

Drill 4 evenly spaced holes close to one end of each can – using a curved piece of wood as a backstop makes it easier [fig 6]

Cut 8-in squares out of wire mesh and trim off corners [fig 7]

Scarify half the seeds with an X (thin cut—the seeds are hard, so it's easy to cut through and damage the embryo)

Soak seeds in water for 24 hours

Identify varied planting areas—different soils, different amounts of light and slope of land, near dead hemlocks or pine if possible

Make map of planting spots, keyed to can numbers (facilitates later note-taking as to germination and growth progress, keyed to location characteristics) [fig 8]

Tools

Drill with 1/8” metal bit

Can opener

White spray paint

Black magic marker

Tin snips

Twist ties or flexible wire

Posthole digger

Planting

Dig 6-in. deep, 6-in. wide hole with digger

Put 5 in. of soil mix in hole, water in

Push can halfway into hole, so ~3 ½ in. is above ground

Pack soil around can to tighten in hole

Place 2 seeds in can on top of soil, one scored [fig 9]

Add 1-2 in. of soil mix to can to bring soil to ground level, water in

Place wire mesh circle on top of can, folding down edges, use twist ties to fasten [fig 10]

When seedling emerges and grows to top of can, remove wire mesh

Allow seedling to continue growing protected by can until well established

Remove can carefully (optional—the can facilitates ID'ing tree, won't impede growth)

In dry periods, water every 3-4 days with rain water if possible



Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Fig. 5



Fig. 6



Fig. 7

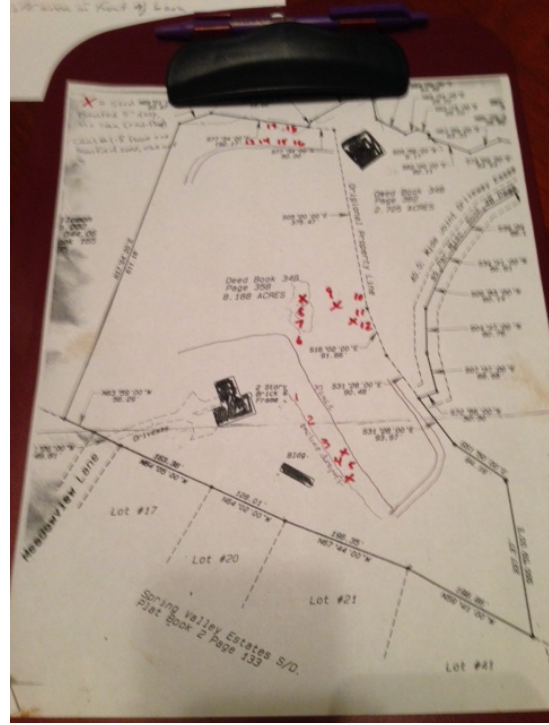


Fig. 8



Fig. 9



Fig. 10