Rules of Tree Planting

Gretchen Cline
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Top 10 Reasons for Failure

• What are the main reasons tree plantings fail?
• How can we help make them more successful?

A District Forester recently said that when going back to look at CRP tree planting re-enrollments, only 25% would be considered successful 10-15 years after establishment.
WE KNOW WE CAN GROW TREES HERE

AND IN SOILS LIKE THIS

THIS IS WHERE WE OFTEN HAVE TO PLANT THEM
#10 No Plan

- Time table in place for when to order seedlings, site prep, etc.
#9 Lack of Site Prep

- Mowing
- Chemical burn down
- Brush/small tree removal
- Leveling
#8

Low Quality Stock

- Native species
- Root to top ratio
- Large vs. small
- Transplants vs. non-transplants
- Conifers vs. hardwoods
- Seeds
#7 Improper Storage

Dormancy is key

- Cool
- Dark
- Moist
#6 Wrong Species Wrong Site

- Determine your soils
- Select species based on drainage
- Select species based on USDA plant hardiness zones
#5 Problems with Planting Technique

- Proper depth
- Angle
- Spacing
- Diversity
- Ground closure
#4 Lack of or Improper Protection

- Tree Shelters
- Mulch
- Cages
Bird netting inhibiting terminal growth
Raccoon digging in for mice
Shelter being left on too long
Tubes used correctly
Mulch

Improper mulch depth

Cages
#3 Excessive Deer Damage
Deer Rub
Others

Rabbit

Mice

Beaver
#2 Overuse of Herbicides

Wilted appearance on Black Walnut

Leaf edge curling on Redbud
#1 Lack of Maintenance
What it should look like
Drought
To Make it Successful...

Earth

Nature

Human!

KEY

INGREDIENTS!
Thank you!