

Woody Plants

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Some of the indigenous species do not take well to transplanting once the seedling begins to mature. The polystyrene trays should be treated with Styrodip to prevent the roots growing into the walls of the trays. The more robust healthy seedlings can then be selected to plant into bags or pots and the others discarded. Other benefits of planting into trays are that it takes a skill which not all people have to handle and transplant the small seedlings. With minimum training anyone can plant a plug. Also the seedlings can stay in the trays for up to 3 years, which with the erratic supply of seed, can be an added bonus of planting up more than you need in a bumper year to ensure a constant supply of a species.

CONCLUSION

A big part of the pleasure I derive from the nursery is the propagation of rare and endangered species. This, I feel, is a worthwhile cause because at the rate of development and habitat destruction in this country cultivation may be a plant's only chance of survival and I feel privileged and blessed that I can be a part of that. The cultivation of a wide variety of indigenous plants, for which no information is available, requires a lot of experimentation to overcome problems with regard to sourcing and cleaning of seed, timing of germination, breaking of dormancy, transplanting, and other challenges.