

## 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

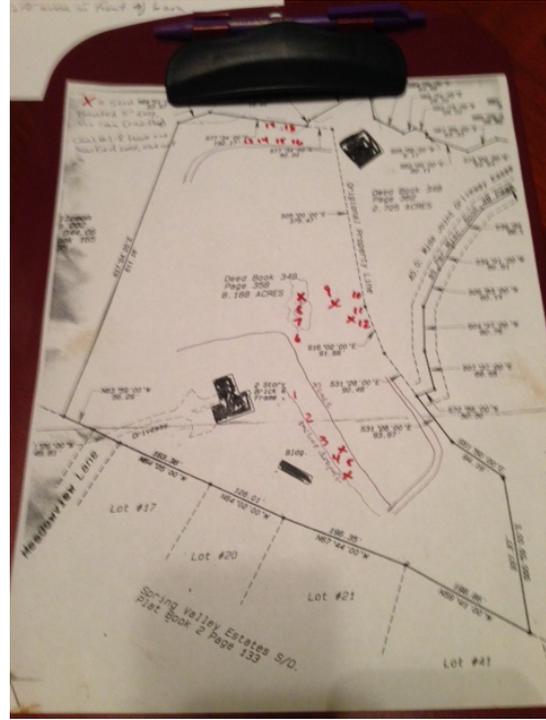


Fig. 8



Fig. 9



Fig. 10