

Allegheny Mountain Institute Capstone Project
A Nursery at the AMI Farm to Provide Plants for Silvopasture
Kaila Topping

Silvopasture is the integration of livestock, trees, and forage to create a system that benefits both the animals and the plants. At AMI, we plan to create silvopastures in our existing fields, and this project is the first step for cultivating plants to fulfill this need. Through propagation and seed starting, we are growing plants that are specifically grown to thrive in the Highland county climate.

I established a nursery in the farm house garden that consists of seven 15' beds. In this nursery, species for an oak savanna were planted including red oak, white oak, hazelnut, and chestnut. These were all started from seed, with the oaks' seeds collected in Highland county, and the hazelnut and chestnut seeds ordered from outside sources. Red, champagne, and black currants were propagated from parent plants growing in Highland County, as well as raspberries and blackberries. The propagated plants are kept in pots, but can be transplanted to the nursery beds in spring.



Figure 1. Red outline indicates the nursery space

Bed 7	<i>Other:</i> open for other plants desired for silvopasture (mulberry, apple, etc.)
Bed 6	<i>Currants:</i> propagations in pots in greenhouse, to be transplanted in spring.
Bed 5	<i>Raspberry:</i> root cuttings taken from another part of the farmhouse garden, 10" spacing in two rows
Bed 4	<i>Hazelnut:</i> start from seeds purchased online, 10" spacing in three rows
Bed 3	<i>Chestnut:</i> start from seeds purchased online, 10" spacing in three rows
Bed 2	<i>White Oak:</i> start from acorns collected in Highland county, 10" spacing in three rows
Bed 1	<i>Red Oak:</i> start from acorns collected around AMI property, 10" spacing in three rows

Farmhouse



How to Propagate Raspberry Plants

Propagation from Suckers

Best time of year: Late spring to midsummer when there is new growth

How to identify suckers: Suckers are located near the root of the mother plant and are typically a lighter green than the rest of the plant. They are small vertical shoots.

Propagation: Dig 2" around the sucker to remove the sucker with a piece of root attached.

Planting: Place the cutting in well-aerated soil, tease out the roots, and cover well with soil. Water as needed.



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