Container Tree-Planting May Increase Quality

A new method of growing trees in containers may produce hardier, faster-growing specimens at lower cost, according to a Michigan State University forestry expert.

Dr. Donald P. White, professor in MSU’s Department of Forestry, is heading up a research program to provide a more effective method of planting valuable “blue ribbon hardwoods” such as black walnut, black cherry, tulip poplar, birch and oak.

“We’re using a variety of special container systems to grow these valuable trees from seed to tree planting size in a few weeks,” says Dr. White.

“Planting container-grown trees achieves several important objectives, including exceptional survival, a prolonged planting season, and accelerated growth during the first season. It also eliminates the need and cost of nursery production and transplanting.”

Good quality trees of these “blue ribbon” species are in short supply and bring premium prices, notes Dr. White.