



The MWFFC Planting Stock Access Program

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Overview: The MWFFC Planting Stock Access Program is designed to increase the availability of non-timber forest product planting stock in the Midwestern US. Planting stock can be expensive, but once plants are established, they can become a self-sustaining population which can meet the planting stock requirements of the farmer, and in turn lead to sales or donations of planting stock to other members of the community, increasing overall access.

Eligibility: The first round of applications will solely be awarded to forest farming projects based in Missouri. However, our goal is to eventually expand this program to other states in the Midwest. Preference will be given to applicants who are new to forest farming and that agree to work with a technical service provider in the planning stages of their project. The MWFFC can serve as a technical service provider and will provide technical assistance as a free service. Awardees who prefer to work with another service provider, such as a consulting forester, may do so.

Program Highlights:

- Awardees will be able to order up to \$1000 worth of planting stock through the MWFFC. Awardees will fill out an order form which will be fulfilled by the MWFFC, and planting stock will be distributed to them.
- The MWFFC will provide guidelines to awardees on best practices and suitable species.
- The MWFFC will provide individualized site assessments to determine ideal planting locations and appropriate site preparation, if needed.
- These funds will be 'no strings attached' in the sense that there will be no requirement to sell or give away planting stock. However, the MWFFC will provide venues for planting stock sales in the coming years.
- Grant awardees will be expected to share their progress through a platform of their choosing. This could include speaking at a workshop or other event hosted by the MWFFC, uploading a farm profile to the Agroforestry Regional Knowledge (ARKx) Exchange Network, creating a report for the MWFFC to share in a monthly newsletter, or sharing in some other way. The MWFFC understands potential privacy concerns associated with growing high value crops such as American ginseng and will not ask recipients to disclose the exact location of their farm on publicly available platforms.

Timeline:

Winter 2025 – Planting Stock Access Program application opens.

April 18th 2025 – Grant applications close.

May 2025 – Awardees will be chosen. An information session will be held detailing steps to order plants, accepted plant species, and expectations for best practices.

June 2025 – MWFFC will visit with awardees to perform a site assessment to recommend species and planting locations, unless the awardee wants to work with another qualified service provider. Farmers will place orders after the site visit.

June – September 2025 - Farmers will prepare their sites for planting.

August - September 2025 - Farmers will receive their orders of planting stock.

September - October 2025 – Planting stock will be planted, unless the awardees choose a species which is best planted in spring. In this case, planting will occur in early spring 2026.

2026 – The MWFFC is willing to assess the progress of plantings and give recommendations if the awardee desires. A venue for sales of seedlings grown through this program, and for sales of any other existing planting stock by forest farmers will be provided in late spring or summer 2026.