

Protocol Information

Natural Resources Conservation Service -
Appalachian Plant Materials Center
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United States Department of Agriculture

Family Scientific Name:	Fabaceae / Leguminosae
Family Common Name:	Pea
Scientific Name:	<i>Amorpha fruticosa</i> L.
Common Name:	false indigo bush
Species Code:	AMFR
Ecotype:	Central Appalachian
General Distribution:	Found in all of the continental states with the exception of Nevada and Montana. Also found in the eastern Canadian provinces.
Known Invasiveness:	None
Propagation Goal:	Plants
Propagation Method:	Seed
Product Type:	Container (plug)
Stock Type:	1+0 container
Target Specifications:	A second spring seedling ranging in height from 6" to 18" and having a compact, well developed root system.

Propagule Collection:	Mature fruit was hand harvested from a population of Central Appalachian <i>Amorpha fructosa</i> maintained at the Appalachian Plant Materials Center.
Propagule Processing:	Seed can be hand stripped from the plants from September to November or the entire seed head may be clipped. Seed heads were broken apart using a hammer mill. Seed was cleaned using a clipper fanning mill.
Pre-Planting Treatments:	Mechanical scarification for 15 seconds using a Forsberg seed scarifier.
Growing Area Preparation/ Annual Practices for Perennial Crops:	Pro-mix BX with biofungicide was moistened and placed in heavy plastic trays. The soil was compacted somewhat to prepare a firm seedbed.
Establishment Phase:	Seed was spread evenly by hand on the soil surface and then covered with 1/8 to 1/4 inch of additional soil. The top layer was pressed down slightly to ensure good seed to soil contact. The seed was then artificially cold stratified at 35-38 degrees Fahrenheit for 30 days. Upon completion of cold stratification, seed was moved to the greenhouse to stimulate germination.
Length of Establishment Phase:	1 month
Active Growth Phase:	Once the seedlings had developed adequate root systems, they were transplanted into 1 gallon plastic pots filled with Metro-mix 510 growing medium. Transplants were maintained at a minimum of 65 degrees Fahrenheit in the greenhouse under automatic watering and natural lighting.
Length of Active Growth Phase:	6 - 9 months
Hardening Phase:	Plants were moved into a shadehouse which provided a minimum of 50 percent shade to allow for hardening off before shipping.
Length of Hardening Phase:	2 weeks
Harvesting, Storage and Shipping:	Plants with sufficient top growth were distributed to various NRCS field offices throughout the Appalachian Region for use in mine land reclamation.
Outplanting performance on typical sites:	The species will tolerate a variety of soil types, but is especially well adapted to shallow, infertile, rocky soils,

derived from a variety of substrates. Sites are typically dry and excessively drained, and are commonly located on sandstone or shale ridges.

Other Comments:

False indigo bush is usually considered to be a pioneering species which invades disturbed sites, fencerows, roadsides, abandoned fields and forest and grassland borders.

References:

USDA, NRCS. 2015. The PLANTS Database (<http://plants.usda.gov>, 11 March 2014). National Plant Data Team, Greensboro, NC 27401-4901 USA.

Citation:

Vandevender, John 2015. Propagation protocol for production of container *Amorpha fruticosa* L. plants (1+0 container); Natural Resources Conservation Service - Appalachian Plant Materials Center, Alderson, West Virginia. In: Native Plant Network. URL: <http://www.nativeplantnetwork.org> (accessed 30 June 2015). Moscow (ID): University of Idaho, College of Natural Resources, Forest Research Nursery.