

FORESTRY

Proposals to Plant Black Walnut as a Replacement for Mahogany

Visit the Maikop dramatic theatre and you will be surrounded on all sides by marvellous designs, drawings and ornaments. This wondrous beauty has been created by the greatest artist of all - Nature - in the wood of the black walnut. The veneer from it abounds in decorative properties, which are just as good as those of mahogany. And this valuable raw material - much prized by furniture makers - can be cultivated in vast areas of the southern part of the country - in the Transcaucasus, the Ukraine, Moldavia and Central Asia.

The black walnut is native to the eastern part of North America. In the Mississippi valley it reaches a height of up to 40 to 50 metres and a diameter of up to two metres. It was from there that the exotic species were brought to our country more than two centuries ago. Over a hundred more years were needed before the unusual plant began to bear fruit in small groves. In the Krasnodar Krai, for example, the first few saplings were planted in 1913 near the Gul'kevichi sugar mill. In the Krai as a whole, in the floodplain of the Kuban' and its tributaries almost three thousand hectares are devoted to the black walnut. The first industrial plantation in the country already exists on the