



Connor Shaw

Possibility Place Nursery

Connor Shaw is the owner and founder of Possibility Place Nursery. He has a B.S. in forest hydrology and a M.S. in wild land hydrology. During his first 10 years out of graduate school, he wrote environmental reports on zone changes in the Chicago area. Connor has taught numerous classes and seminars on native plants and nursery production, and has written several articles for various publications.

Possibility Place Nursery began in 1978 on just 5 acres of land near Monee, Illinois. The plant material was comprised of native and non-native trees and shrubs. In 1983 we began growing only native trees and shrubs. We now produce native trees on 55 acres with an additional two acres of trees and shrubs in five gallon containers. We first started a typical balled and burlapped nursery operation. We had some survival issues with difficult to transplant tree (oaks) and it seemed like an awful lot of soil was leaving with each tree. In the mid-80's we introduced to a method of growing (Root Makers) designed by Carl Whitcomb at Oklahoma State. The root bags worked! Our plants were growing well and our on-site survival rate was higher than ever. We use the same bag system although the fabric has been updated many times. In the early 90s we started growing trees in an above ground system. A study done by Western Illinois University showed that trees planted in August were far superior to spring planted trees. In the late 90s we started a five-gallon operation to grow shrubs as well as trees. Like all new systems we have had our trials and tribulations but we feel pretty comfortable with this system. After years of studying and growing and testing our plants in all kinds of situations, we have tweaked every aspect of our growing system to produce plants that can adapt faster and grow more quickly on all kinds of sites...

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