

# ***OASIS tlc's Coppice Project!***

Written by Sean Walsh, *Sustainable Farm and Property Manager*



**Nico and Megumi are preparing to plant 15 hybrid poplar (variety OP-367) stems.**



**Hybrid Poplar variety OP-367 has been recorded growing as much as 12 feet per year.  
That's a lot of goat food!**



**Before planting we scratch the lower part of the stem to encourage callusing and the healing process that will result in new root growth. The stems have been soaking in a nutrient solution that includes sea kelp and beneficial microorganisms that will help get these trees off to a healthy start.**



**The stems are dipped into a gel containing a rooting hormone and additional microorganisms, specifically several species of mycorrhizal fungi.**





**After drilling a hole, Megumi inserts the prepared stem. The soil is partially backfilled, watered in to ensure good contact, and backfilling is completed.**



**Nico then applies a dose of organic fertilizer (seaweed, molasses, etc) via the backpack sprayer primarily designed to boost the healthy microbial ecosystem around the newly establishing tree.**





Once planted, each tree receives a tree tube for protection while it establishes. Each flag is a tree yet to be planted.



Once all of the poplar stems are planted, we tag them with embossed aluminum tags so that we can keep track of each variety. With only one species in the ground so far this might not seem like a big deal, but once completed this coppice paddock will have about 25 species/varieties to keep track of.



**Nick, Brian, and Sarah are hard at work to complete the fence. This fence will protect our goat fodder plants from hungry goats, so that we can manage the tree's growth and harvest. Higher horizontal wires will be added to keep deer out.**