

■ Study Guide: Starting a Permaculture Nursery

Based on the presentation by Peter Janes

Accidental Beginnings: From Collecting Plants to a Nursery (Timestamp: 3:02–3:26)

Key Takeaway: Many nurseries start unintentionally, out of passion and surplus.

Action Steps:

- Start with what you love to grow.
- Offer extras locally to test demand.

Why Customers Come: Diversity and Rare Finds (Timestamp: 5:53–6:24)

Key Takeaway: Customers want unusual and diverse plants, not what big box stores sell.

Action Steps:

- Focus on unusual edibles.
- Market uniqueness as your strength.

Essential Infrastructure: The Greenhouse (Timestamp: 8:34–8:45)

Key Takeaway: Greenhouses are indispensable for propagation and protection.

Action Steps:

- Budget for at least one simple greenhouse.
- Use it for seed starting and cuttings.

Regional Challenges and Design Parameters (Timestamp: 9:56–10:39)

Key Takeaway: Climate realities like rainfall and drought shape nursery design.

Action Steps:

- Study regional rainfall and frost patterns.
- Design with water management in mind.

The Revelation of Rootstocks and Drought Tolerance (Timestamp: 11:28–13:21)

Key Takeaway: Seed-grown rootstocks develop taproots for drought resilience.

Action Steps:

- Experiment with seedling rootstocks.
- Match traits with your climate.

Handling Seeds Fresh vs. Dried (Timestamp: 13:30–14:50)

Key Takeaway: Fresh stratified seeds germinate better than dried ones.

Action Steps:

- Harvest seeds directly from fruit.
- Refrigerate in damp medium until planting.

Learning from Neighbors and Older Farmers (Timestamp: 17:04–18:00)

Key Takeaway: Local elders hold site-tested wisdom and plant genetics.

Action Steps:

- Build relationships with older growers.
- Use their plants as mother stock.

Propagation by Cuttings: Grapes, Elderberries, and Figs (Timestamp: 21:46–23:37)

Key Takeaway: Cuttings are fast and low-cost but less resilient than seedlings.

Action Steps:

- Use cuttings for quick turnover crops.
- Pair with seedlings for resilience.

Grafting for Predictability and Longevity (Timestamp: 26:21–28:56)

Key Takeaway: Grafting combines resilient rootstocks with marketable scions.

Action Steps:

- Learn basic grafting techniques.
- Collect local rootstocks and test grafts.

Recommended Book: Plant Propagation (Timestamp: 49:04–49:23)

Key Takeaway: A comprehensive resource saves years of trial and error.

Action Steps:

- Get at least one propagation textbook.
- Keep it handy for troubleshooting.

■ Inspiring Quotes

"My nursery started by accident — I had too many plants, so I sold the extras."	— Timestamp ~3:02–3:26
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"Walmart can sell apples, but customers come to us for Szechuan pepper and persimmons."	— Timestamp ~5:53–6:24
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"Seed-grown rootstocks develop taproots, making them drought tolerant without irrigation."	— Timestamp ~11:28–13:21
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■ Final Advice from Peter Janes

1. Start with passion and surplus — don't overcomplicate the beginning.
2. Differentiate with rarity — unusual edibles attract customers.
3. Invest in infrastructure — a greenhouse is non-negotiable.
4. Adapt to your climate — water, soil, and seasonality must guide design.
5. Value rootstocks — they're the foundation of resilient plants.
6. Keep seeds fresh — refrigeration beats drying for germination.
7. Learn from neighbors — hyperlocal knowledge is priceless.
8. Use propagation diversity — cuttings, grafting, and seedlings each have their place.
9. Study continuously — reference books and practice go hand in hand.