

AAMG Question for newspaper

Hi Jeff,

Thanks for the question. Juglone is a substance that is secreted from the walnut tree's roots, leaves, buds, stems and nut hulls. This chemical is a defense mechanism of the tree to discourage competition, causing wilting and growth stunting of nearby susceptible plants. This includes the dead leaves and decaying nut hulls. Hickory and maple trees also discourage competition from nearby plants but not to the degree of the walnut.

Penn State did some research on the plants that do well (or will tolerate juglone better) around walnut trees. Unfortunately, the cottonwood tree is not on this list. The plants that are tolerant can be found on this website: <https://extension.psu.edu/landscaping-and-gardening-around-walnuts-and-other-juglone-producing-plants>. If you do decide to set a cottonwood, plant it as far away as possible from your walnut. Also, note all the flowers and shrubs the above website list contains. Those would be good alternatives if you are looking for honeybee pollen plants

Thanks again for the question!

The Northeast Tennessee Master Gardeners