

Seedling Processing, Storage, and Outplanting

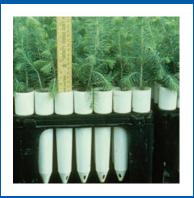




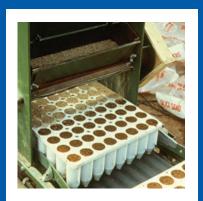














Volume One Nursery Planning, Development, and Management (1995)

Volume Two Containers and Growing Media (1990)

Volume Three Atmospheric Environment (1992)

Volume Four Seedling Nutrition and Irrigation (1989)

Volume Five The Biological Component: Nursery Pests and Mycorrhizae (1990)

Volume Six Seedling Propagation (1999)

Volume Seven Seedling Processing, Storage, and Outplanting (2010)

Landis, T.D.; Dumroese, R.K.; Haase, D.L. 2010.

The Container Tree Nursery Manual.

Volume 7, Seedling Processing, Storage, and Outplanting

Agric. Handbk. 674. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service. 200 p.

The use of trade or firm names in this publication is for reader information and does not imply endorsement by the Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture of any product or service.

Pesticides used improperly can be injurious to humans, animals, and plants. Follow the directions and heed all precautions on the labels. Store pesticides in original containers under lock and key—out of the reach of children and animals—and away from food and feed. Apply pesticides so that they do not endanger humans, livestock, crops, beneficial insects, fish, and wildlife. Do not apply pesticides when there is danger of drift, when honey bees or other pollinating insects are visiting plants, or in ways that may contaminate water or leave illegal residues. Avoid prolonged inhalation of pesticide sprays or dusts; wear protective clothing and equipment if specified on the container. If your hands become contaminated with a pesticide, do not eat or drink until you have washed. In case a pesticide is swallowed or gets in the eyes, follow the first-aid treatment given on the label, and get prompt medical attention. If a pesticide is spilled on your skin or clothing, remove clothing immediately and wash skin thoroughly. Do not clean spray equipment or dump excess spray material near ponds, streams, or wells. Because it is difficult to remove all traces of herbicides from equipment, do not use the same equipment for insecticides or fungicides that you use for herbicides. Dispose of empty pesticide containers promptly. Have them buried at a sanitary land-fill dump, or crush and bury them in a level, isolated place. NOTE: Some States have restrictions on the use of certain pesticides. Check your State and local regulations. Also, because registrations of pesticides are under constant review by the Federal Environmental Protection Agency, consult your county agricultural agent or State extension specialist to be sure the intended use is still registered.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Forest Service

Agriculture Handbook 674

March 2010



Volume Seven Seedling Processing, Storage, and Outplanting

Thomas D. Landis, Retired National Nursery Specialist, USDA Forest Service and Private Consultant, Medford, OR

R. Kasten Dumroese, National Nursery Specialist and Research Scientist, USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station, Moscow, ID

Diane L. Haase, Western Nursery Specialist, USDA Forest Service, State & Private Forestry, Portland,OR

The Container Tree Nursery Manual

Volume Seven

Seedling Processing, Storage, and Outplanting

Chanter	1_	The	Target	Plant	Concept
Chapter		-1116	iarget	riaiii	Concept

- 7.1.1 Introduction 3
- 7.1.2 Defining the Target Plant 4
- 7.1.3 Field Testing the Target Plant 11
- 7.1.4 Summary 13
- 7.1.5 Literature Cited 14

Chapter 2—Assessing Plant Quality

- 7.2.1 Introduction 19
- 7.2.2 Classes of Plant Quality Attributes 20
- 7.2.3 Morphological Attributes 21
- 7.2.4 Physiological Attributes 27
- 7.2.5 Performance Attributes 52
- 7.2.6 Correlating Combinations of Plant Quality Tests
 To Predict Outplanting Performance 68
- 7.2.7 Limitations of Plant Quality Tests 69
- 7.2.8 Commercial Plant Quality Testing Laboratories 71
- 7.2.9 Summary and Conclusions 72
- 7.2.10 Literature Cited 74
- 7.2.11 Appendix 81

Chapter 3—Harvesting

- 7.3.1 Introduction 85
- 7.3.2 Scheduling the Winter Harvesting Window 87
- 7.3.3 Pre-storage Fungicide Treatments 90
- 7.3.4 Processing Speculation and Contract 91
- 7.3.5 Grading and Packaging 92
- 7.3.6 Packaging for Storage and Shipping 99
- 7.3.7 Processing Cull Seedlings 100
- 7.3.8 Summary and Conclusions 101
- 7.3.9 Literature Cited 102

Chapter 4—Plant Storage

- 7.4.1 Introduction *107*
- 7.4.2 Short-Term Storage for Summer or Fall Outplanting—"Hot-Planting" 108
- 7.4.3 Overwinter Storage 110
- 7.4.4 Nonrefrigerated Storage Systems 112
- 7.4.5 Refrigerated Storage 120
- 7.4.6 Monitoring Plant Quality in Storage 126
- 7.4.7 Causes of Overwinter Damage 128
- 7.4.8 Summary and Conclusions 131
- 7.4.9 Literature Cited 132

Chapter 5—Handling and Shipping

- 7.5.1 Introduction *137*
- 7.5.2 Minimizing Stresses During Handling 138
- 7.5.3 Handling and Shipping Systems 142
- 7.5.4 Nursery Stock Delivery 145
- 7.5.5 Summary and Recommendations 148
- 7.5.6 Literature Cited 149

Chapter 6—Outplanting

- 7.6.1 Introduction *154*
- 7.6.2 Outplanting Windows 155
- 7.6.3 Onsite Handling and Storage 157
- 7.6.4 Pre-Planting Preparations 162
- 7.6.5 Selecting Plant Spacing and Pattern 169
- 7.6.6 Crew Training and Supervision 171
- 7.6.7 Hand-Planting Equipment 173
- 7.6.8 Machine Planting 179
- 7.6.9 Planting Equipment for Large Stock 184
- 7.6.10 Treatments at Time of Planting 186
- 7.6.11 Monitoring Outplanting Performance 190
- 7.6.12 Conclusions and Recommendations 193
- 7.6.13 Literature Cited 194

Preface

The Container Tree Nursery Manual consists of seven volumes that have all been published under the same series number: USDA Agriculture Handbook 674. Writing began in the late 1980s, with the first volume published in 1989. Subsequent volumes were published at increasingly longer intervals with the seventh and last volume taking over 10 years to complete (fig. 1).

Each volume contains chapters on closely related subjects concerning the production of trees and other native plants in containers. The volumes can be accumulated and used as a complete nursery manual, or they can be used separately by specialists needing information on a particular subject. Because several subjects must be discussed in more than one volume, there will be some redundancy in the manual. Such repetition is justified, however, because most readers will be using the manual as a technical reference and will not be reading the entire text.

The Container Tree Nursery Manual has been functionally organized to follow the normal sequence of nursery development, seedling propagation, and outplanting. Volume one discusses the various steps that should be followed in developing a nursery facility. Volume two is concerned with the selection of types of containers and growing media. Volume three and volume four analyze the "limiting factors" that affect seedling growth and discuss how they can be manipulated in container nurseries. Volume five examines the various biological organisms

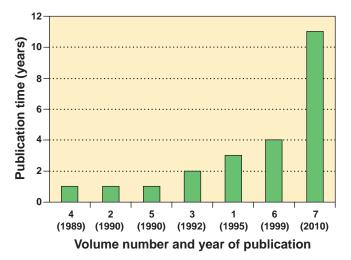


Figure 1—Years required to write each volume of Agriculture Handbook 674.

that can affect seedlings, either negatively as pests or positively as mycorrhizae. Volume six shows how to develop growing schedules and how seedlings are propagated through the three growth phases. Volume seven covers the time from when the crop is hardened-off and ready for harvest to when they go in the ground.

The seven volumes are structured around an outline of numerical organizational headings that enable the reader to locate a specific subject quickly, without referring to an index. The general outline of volume and chapter titles is as follows:

Volume One—Nursery Planning, Development, and Management

- Chapter 1 Initial Planning and Feasibility Assessment
- Chapter 2 Site Selection
- Chapter 3 Nursery Design and Site Layout
- Chapter 4 Environmental Control and Safety Equipment
- Chapter 5 Service Buildings and Equipment
- Chapter 6 Nursery Management
- Chapter 7 Troubleshooting Nursery Problems

Volume Two—Containers and Growing Media

- Chapter 1 Containers: Types and Functions
- Chapter 2 Growing Media

Volume Three—Atmospheric Environment

- Chapter 1 Temperature
- Chapter 2 Humidity
- Chapter 3 Light
- Chapter 4 Carbon Dioxide

Volume Four—Seedling Nutrition and Irrigation

- Chapter 1 Mineral Nutrition and Fertilization
- Chapter 2 Irrigation and Water Management

Volume Five—The Biological Component: Nursery Pests and Mycorrhizae

- Chapter 1 Disease and Pest Management
- Chapter 2 Mycorrhizae

Volume Six—Seedling Propagation

- Chapter 1 Crop Planning
- Chapter 2 Seed Propagation
- Chapter 3 Vegetative Propagation
- Chapter 4 Seedling Development: The Establishment, Rapid Growth, and Hardening Phases

Volume Seven—Seedling Processing, Storage, and Outplanting

Chapter 1 The Target Plant Concept Chapter 2 Assessing Plant Quality

Chapter 3 Harvesting Chapter 4 Plant Storage

Chapter 5 Handling and Shipping

Chapter 6 Outplanting

This manual is based on the best current knowledge of container nursery management and should be used as a general reference. Recommendations were made using the best information available at the time and are, therefore, subject to revision as more knowledge becomes available. Much of the information in this manual was primarily developed from information on growing western and southern conifer seedlings in the United States. Because of the wide variation in individual species responses, container nursery managers will need to adapt these principles and procedures to their own crop requirements. There is no substitute for individual experience, and recommended cultural practices should be tested before being implemented on an operational scale.

Trade names are used throughout the manual, but only to provide examples, and no endorsement by USDA of specific products, or exclusion of equally suitable products, is implied. The mention of specific pesticides is intended only for general information and should not be construed as an endorsement. Because of frequent changes in pesticide registration and labeling, the reader should check with local authorities to make sure that an intended use is both safe and legal. Remember that pesticides can be harmful to humans, domestic animals, desirable plants, and fish or other wildlife if they are not handled or applied properly. Use all pesticides selectively and carefully, following the label directions. Follow recommended practices for the disposal of surplus pesticides and pesticide containers.

Acknowledgments

Many people have been instrumental in the preparation of the manual. Amy Grey and Jim Marin were responsible for layout and production.

Technical review of such a large publication involves considerable work, and the authors thank the following nursery professionals for reviewing final drafts of this volume:

All six Chapters:

John Mexal

Steve Grossnickle

Nabil Khadduri

Doug McCreary

Chapter 1 - The Target Plant Concept

Douglass Jacobs David South

Glenda Scott

Chapter 2 - Assessing Plant Quality

David South

Conor O' Reilly

Chapter 4 - Plant Storage

David G. Simpson

Chapter 6 - Outplanting

Glenda Scott

Leo Tervo

Risto Rikala

Where To Obtain Copies

The Forest Service initially purchased a limited quantity of hard copies of each volume for free distribution but many of the earlier volumes are out of print. Because of the cost of reprinting in color, Stuewe and Sons has reprinted volumes in black and white. All of the volumes have also been published as electronic books ("e-books") in Adobe PDF format. Both hard copies and e-books can be purchased from either of the following sources; contact them for current availability and prices.

Western Forestry and Conservation Association 4033 SW Canyon Road

Portland, OR 97221 USA

Tel: 503-226-4562 Fax: 503-226-2515 E-mail: richard@westernforestry.org

Web site: http://www.westernforestry.org

Stuewe & Sons, Inc. 31933 Rolland Drive Tangent, OR 97389 USA

Tel: 1-800-553-5331 or 541-757-7798

Fax: 541-754-6617 E-mail: info@stuewe.com

Web site: http://www.stuewe.com

In addition, PDFs of each volume may be viewed and downloaded from the Reforestation, Nurseries, and Genetics Resources Web site: http://rngr.net.