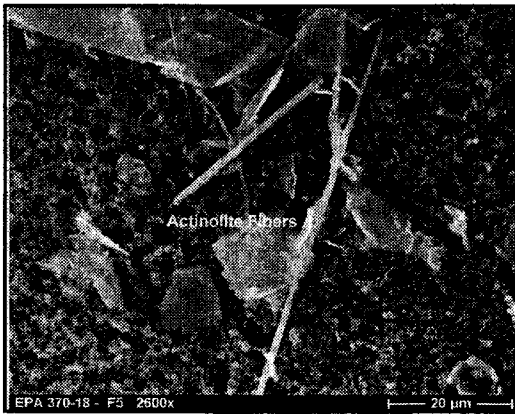
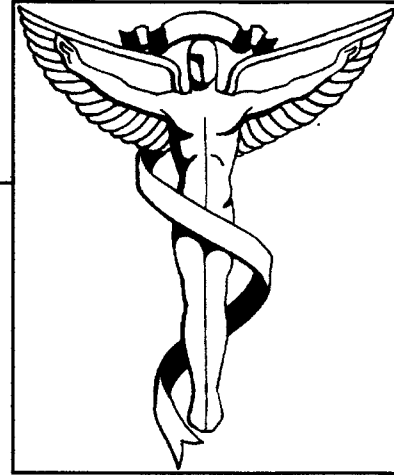




Forest Nursery Notes

Winter 2001

Integrated Pest Management Holistic Nursery Pest Management

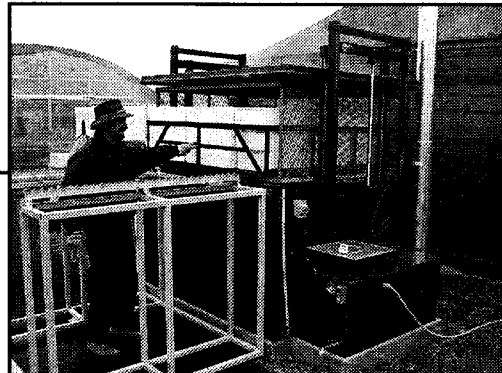


Health and Safety

Update On the Potential Hazards of Vermiculite

Equipment, Products, and Services

Growers Hot Vats Container Sterilization Equipment



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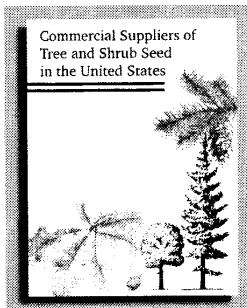
**This technology transfer service is funded by:
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Nursery Networks

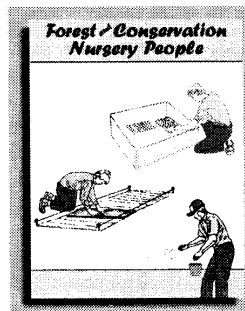
Directories on the Reforestation, Nurseries, and Genetic Resources (RNGR) home page - One of the objectives of Forest Nursery Notes is to promote networking and so we maintain several different directories on our website. **Note the new address:**

< <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/rngr> >

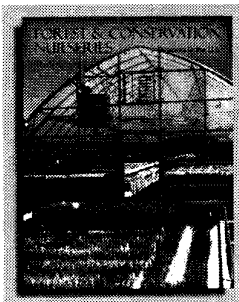


Commercial Suppliers of Tree and Shrub Seed in the United States - This directory provides a list of vendors of tree and shrub seed for the US. The directory starts with some basic information on seed quality and other considerations and then is followed by addresses and telephone and fax numbers.

Services supplied by each vendor is also included along with an alphabetical list of all the tree and shrub seed sold in the US and common plant names. Again, much of this information is already out-of-date so please let us know if there are changes or additions.



Forest and Conservation Nursery People - This is an MS Excel spreadsheet of people who work in the forest and conservation nursery field from around the world. It is composed of the mailing list for FNN so, if you'd like to be added to the directory or update your listing just fill out and return the Literature Order Form in the back of this issue.



Directory of Forest and Conservation Nurseries - This directory is organized by state and contains the latest addresses and production information for forest and conservation nurseries on a state-by-state basis. For those nurseries that have them, links to E-mail addresses and WWW home pages are also

provided. Ownership category, type of nursery (container or bareroot), and current and potential seedling distribution are included. We will be updating this directory in the coming months so nurseries will be receiving an E-mail, FAX, or letter with their current listings.



Directory of Native **Plant Nurseries**

(<<http://nativeplants.for.uidaho.edu>>) An on-line directory of native plant nurseries is being developed on the Native Plants Journal / Native Plants Network Internet site. The site will include a free state-by-state listing of nurseries that

grow native plants, sell native plant seeds, or perform other related services. For a nominal fee, nurseries and companies will be able to upload species/service availability lists, keywords, and hyperlinks to their websites - the lists and keywords will reside in a searchable database to facilitate use by native plant users. Over the next several months we will be verifying existing information in the Directory of Forest and Conservation Nurseries (www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/rngr/pubs/direchp.htm), and the directory from the now defunct HortusWest magazine. This Native Plant Directory is sure to be widely used so contact Kas Dumroese to make sure you are included: E-mail: <dumroese@uidaho.edu>, or TEL: 208.885.3509.

New Woody Plant Seed Manual: <<http://www.wpsm.net/>>

The Woody Plant Seed Manual (1941) was the first comprehensive handbook on the seeds of trees and shrubs. An updated and expanded manual, *Seeds of Woody Plants in the United States* (USDA Agric. Handbk. 450) was published in 1974. This volume contained data for approximately 800 taxa in 188 genera with many helpful illustrations (Figure 1).

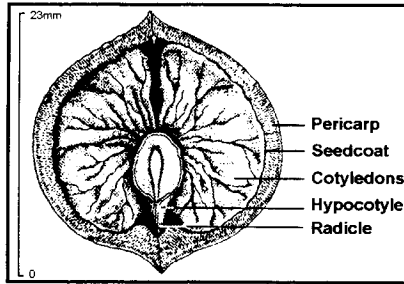


Figure 1 - Seed cross-section for shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*)

Its popularity led to multiple printings, and portions of it were translated into several other languages. The numerous advances in tree seed technology in the last quarter-century have now dictated the publication of a new revision, again named the Woody Plant Seed Manual. The revision process by a team of Forest Service scientists and cooperators from universities and other government agencies has now been underway for over 6 years. The book will contain almost 1,300 taxa in 230 genera, a considerable increase in the scope of the 1974 handbook. Because such a large undertaking requires so much time and effort by so many people, the finished product is still many months away from release. In order to make the new technology available as soon as possible, a

decision was made to post completed portions of the book on this interim website. Chapters for completed genera contain tables with some graphics are presented in preliminary html format (See text box).

When the final editing is completed, the manual will be formatted and made available as a traditional printed book and electronically on a CD-ROM and the final website in Adobe PDF format. Of course, we will keep you informed of developments in future issues of FNN.

Western Forest and Conservation Nursery Association (WFCNA): <www.wfcna.net>

With the help of J.B. Jordin, we have just developed a new website for the WFCNA. The site contains 6 sections, each of which features a pull-down menu:

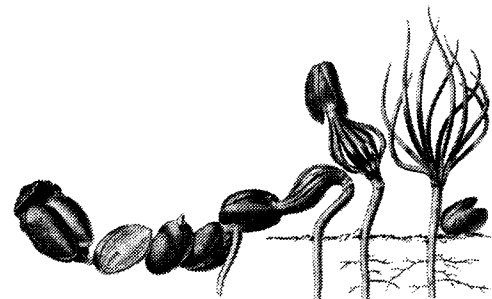
Proceedings - This section contains a list of future, current, and past meetings along with complete Proceedings for 1995 to 1998. The proceedings for the 1999 and 2000 meetings are being processed at the present time.

Conference Information - This section contains information on upcoming meetings and other related events.

Websites - This has hot links to the other forest nursery associations as well as Tree Planters' Notes and Native Plant Journal websites.

About WFCNA - This includes the official charter of the organization including a Mission Statement, Goals, and Membership.

We eventually plan to have similar websites for the other two forest nursery organizations in the United States: the Southern Forest Nursery Association which meets on even-numbered years, and the Northeastern Forest and Conservation Nursery Association which meets each year.



A Chapters*

Abies
Acacia
Acer
Adenanthera
Aesculus
Ailanthus
Albizia
Aleurites
Alnus
Amelanchier
Amorpha
Ambrosia
Aralia
Araucaria
Arbutus
Arctostaphylos
Aronia
Artemisia
Asimina
Atriplex

* Those in italics are completed

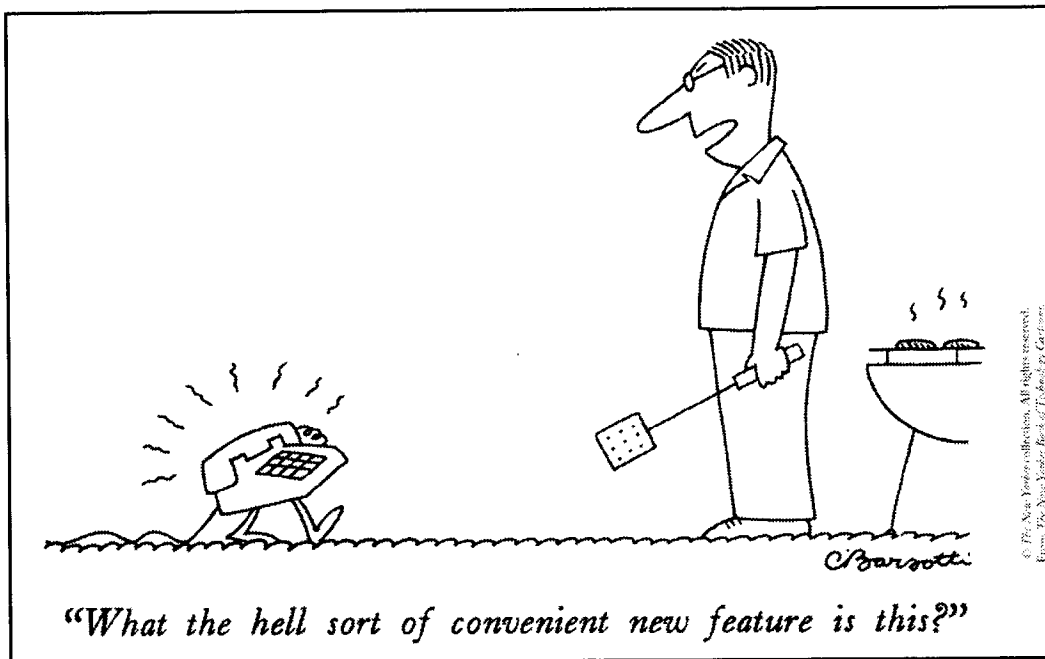
Forest Nursery Notes Winter 2001

Please Update Your Address: The FNN mailing list is always out-of-date so we would like to make sure that we have your latest address. Please take the time to check the mailing label and note any additions or corrections on the Literature Order Form at the back of this issue. In particular, check your telephone and FAX numbers because area codes keep changing. Supply the country code if you are a foreign subscriber. Also list your E-mail and website addresses if you have them.

Technical Requests. Every day we receive letters, telephone calls, Faxes, and E-mail messages from around the world requesting publications or asking for technical assistance. Our technology transfer team prides itself on responding to all inquiries as soon as possible but we do have to set some priorities. Forest and conservation nurseries in the United States receive first priority and then we handle requests from foreign countries. Our contact information is listed on the inside cover of this issue. If Tom is not around, then contact David or Rae and we'll get back to you as soon as possible. You can make things easier if you will remember a few things when contacting us:

- ?? Telephone calls are hard to understand sometimes, especially when the caller has an accent. If you leave a voice mail message, please speak slowly and give your full mailing address, phone, FAX, and E-mail numbers.
- ?? FAX messages are easy to process but be sure to give your complete name, address, and return FAX number *including country code*.
- ?? E-mail is the best option because it is non-invasive and accessible around the clock. If you are requesting publications, be sure and give us your full mailing address.

New E-mail and Website Addresses: Tom has a new "official" E-mail address (tdlandis@fs.fed.us), so please note it in your address book, and our website has also changed to: <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/mgr>



Nursery Meetings

This section lists upcoming meetings and conferences that would be of interest to nursery and reforestation personnel. Please send us any additions or corrections as soon as possible and we will get them into the next issue.

The USDA Forest Service, University of Georgia Warnell School of Forest Resources and the Longleaf Alliance are organizing a second annual workshop focused on ***Growing Longleaf Pine Seedlings in Containers*** on **January 16 to 17, 2001**. The workshop will be held at the University of Georgia's Rural Development Center in Tifton, GA and will begin with a vendor reception on Tuesday evening January 16. Classroom sessions will run from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Wednesday January 17 & from 9 a.m. to noon on Thursday January 18. The workshop will conclude with a field tour on Thursday afternoon. This year's workshop will focus on seedling standards, enhancing germination, media selection, irrigation & nutrition management, and integrated pest management. We will also provide ample time to interact with vendors & fellow growers.

For registration information, contact:
The University of Georgia
Rural Development Center Conference Office
TEL: 229.386.3416
FAX: 229.386.3822

For program information, contact:
Dave Moorhead at TEL: 229.386.3418
E-mail: moorhead@uga.edu
Website: www.bugwood.org/container

Seeds for the Future, A National Native Wildflower and Grass Seed Production Conference

The demand for regionally adapted native wildflower and grass seed exceeds the supply, a gap that will widen given the growing interest in restoration of natural habitats, use of native plants, conservation, ecotourism, and recent policy directives at federal, state, and local levels. This conference will highlight the status and needs of the native wildflower seed industry as well as those of the government and private sectors. Issues to be addressed will be of interest to: those involved or interested in producing native wildflower seed; farmers seeking an alternative crop; federal, state, and local agencies affected by native plant policies; those involved with restoration or mitigation; and commercial and residential developers seeking natural aesthetic effects. Presented by:

Florida Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration
University of Florida/IFAS
Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
Keep Florida Beautiful *Wildflower Advisory Council*
April 18 - 20, 2001
Orlando, Florida
Rosen Plaza Hotel

For registration and program information contact
Nancy Hummell
TEL: 850.922.7206
FAX: 850.922.7217

The International Union of Forestry Research Organizations (IUFRO) Working Groups 3.02.00, 3.02.01 and 3.02.02 are sponsoring a meeting on **Nursery Production and Stand Establishment of Broadleaves to Promote Sustainable Forest Management** in Rome, Italy on **May 7 to 10, 2007**. The purpose of the meeting is to bring together researchers and foresters from all over the world to discuss state-of-the-art practices and future developments regarding nursery production and establishment of broad-leaved trees. The meeting announcement is on the following web pages:

<http://iufro.boku.ac.at/iufro/iufro.net/d3/wu30200/ev30200.htm>

<http://iufro.boku.ac.at/iufro/iufro.net/d3/wu30201/ev30201.htm>

<http://iufro.boku.ac.at/iufro/iufro.net/d3/wu30202/ev30202.htm>

To indicate your interest and to receive further information, please send an E-mail message *as soon as possible to both of the following addresses*. Indicate whether you would like to just attend or if you would like to present a paper or poster:

<ciccarese@anpa.it>

<amn@du.se>

If you do not have E-mail service, send a letter to:

Lorenzo Ciccarese

ANPA

Via V Brancati 48

00144 Rome

ITALY

The **Southern Forest Nursery Association** will meet in Gainesville, FL in the **Summer of 2002**. Steve Gilley is the hosting the meeting and more information will be forthcoming in future issues of FNN.

The **Northeastern Nursery Conference** will be held the week of **July 23 to 26, 2001** at Toftrees Conference Center and Resort, State College, PA. Toftrees is adjacent to the Penn State University campus, home of the Nittany Lions, aka Joe's Place. The agenda is still being developed so contact Alex Day if you want to give a paper or poster, or just want the latest information:

Penn Nursery

137 Penn Nursery Road

Spring Mills, PA 16875

TEL: 814.364.5150

FAX: 814.364.5152

E-mail: pennnursery@dcr.state.pa.us

The **Western Forest and Conservation Nursery Association** will be meeting at Ft. Lewis College in Durango, CO on **July 30 to August 3, 2001**. The college has excellent meeting facilities and attendees can stay right on campus at the Anasazi Apartment complex for a very reasonable rate. We are currently circulating a call for papers and posters so please contact me if you would like to give a talk. As usual, the meeting will consist of technical sessions and field trips. This year we will visit the BIA Southern Ute Forest Nursery and Mesa Verde National Park. For more information, give me a call:

Tom D. Landis

USDA Forest Service, J.H. Stone Nursery

2606 Old Stage Road

Central Point, OR 97502-1300

TEL: 541.858.6166

FAX: 541.858.6110

E-mail: tlandis@fs.fed.us

The Eighth Workshop on **Seedling Physiology and Growth Problems in Oak Plantings** will be held at the Lake Chatuga Lodge in Hiawassee, GA on **September 9 to 12, 2001**. The meeting will consist of technical papers, discussion periods, and field trip to oaks outplanting sites. If you would like to present a paper or poster or just want more information, you can contact:

Linda Watson or Paul Kormanik
Institute of Tree Root Biology
USDA Forest Service
320 Green Street
Athens, GA 30602
TEL: 706.559.4288
FAX: 706.559.4291
E-mail: lwatson01@fs.fed.us

Because the first meeting was so successful, a **Second Native Plants: Propagating and Planting** meeting is being planned for **December 12 to 13, 2001** in Eugene, OR. This conference is sponsored by the Oregon State University Nursery Technology Cooperative and the Western Forestry and Conservation Association. They are currently soliciting speakers for the conference so please send any ideas to Diane Haase as soon as possible. Contact Richard Zabel for general information on the meeting:

Diane Haase
Nursery Technology Cooperative
Oregon State University
Richardson Hall 301 C
Corvallis, OR 97331
TEL: 541. 737.6576
FAX: 541. 737.1393
E-mail: Diane.Haase@orst.edu
Website: www.fsl.orst.edu/coops/ntc/ntc.htm

Richard Zabel
Western Forestry and Conservation Assoc.
4033 SW Canyon Road
Portland, OR 97221
TEL: 503.226.4562
FAX: 503.226.2515
E-mail: richard@westernforestry.org

International Plant Propagators' Society (IPPS) meetings always cover a wide range of basic plant propagation concepts, techniques, and technologies, and are an excellent opportunity to expand your horticultural horizons. Currently, the Society has eight regions and one potential region. The IPPS home page (<http://www.ipps.org/>) contains a wealth of information on these meetings and how to join the organization. I heartily recommend it!

IPPS Region	Date	Location
Australian Region	May	Canberra
Eastern Region, North America	Sept. 30 - Oct. 3	Lexington, KY
Region of Great Britain & Ireland	Aug. 28 - 31	E. Midlands & E. Anglia
IPPS Japan	Autumn	Shizuoka
New Zealand Region	May 11-13	Hamilton
IPPS Scandinavia	Early Sept.	To Be Determined
Southern Region, North America	Oct. 18 - 21	Houston, TX
Western Region, (USA and Canada)	September	Seattle, WA
Southern African Potential Region	March	To Be Determined

Health and Safety

Update on the Potential Health Hazards of Vermiculite

The July 2000 issue of Forest Nursery Notes contained an article on the potential hazards of handling vermiculite. In August, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released the findings of a study they conducted on vermiculite products that they obtained from garden stores across the country. The survey found that "only 15% (8 products out of 54 sampled) of these products contained enough asbestos to allow EPA to reliably quantify a percentage of asbestos in the product ...further analysis of the likelihood of the asbestos becoming airborne, during routine use of these products, indicated that *this potential exposure poses a minimal health risk to consumers.*" The low levels of asbestos were found primarily in those bags containing straight vermiculite.

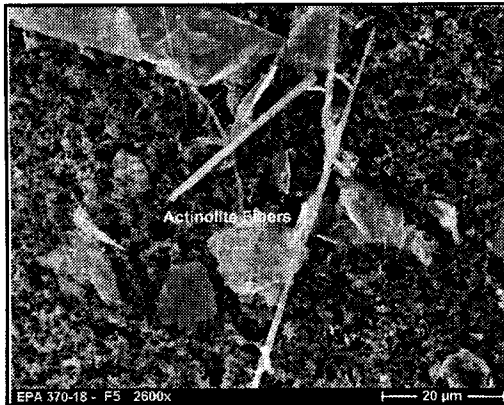
The EPA recommends that consumers

- ?? Use vermiculite outdoors or in a well-ventilated area.
- ?? Keep it damp during use
- ?? Avoid bringing vermiculite home on clothing
- ?? Use premixed potting soil which has less vermiculite and more moisture
- ?? Mix it with additives such as peat, sawdust, perlite or bark.

The risks associated with occupational exposures to vermiculite were not addressed in this report and according to EPA officials we contacted, follow-up work in this area is not expected at this time. We were advised that when employees are working around vermiculite or vermiculite products where dust can be seen in the air, they avoid potential inhalation through the use of respiratory protection equipment.

The *Sampling and Analysis of Consumer Garden Products that Contain Vermiculite* report is posted on the EPA's Asbestos website at:

<http://www.epa.gov/opptintr/asbestos/vermiculite.pdf> Other information on vermiculite and asbestos can be found at www.epa.gov/asbestos.



Courtesy EPA Region 10

Cultural Perspectives

The Target Seedling

Introduction

Nursery management and reforestation in North America have come a long way since the first large scale nurseries were established in the early 1900's. In the past, the entire process was very simple - nurseries produced the seedlings which were then shipped for outplanting. Seedling users took what they got and there wasn't much choice. Tree planting was a mechanical process of getting the seedlings in the ground in the quickest and least expensive manner. Not much thought was given to seedling quality or the possibility of using different stock types.

In the last 25 years, however, more science has been infused into the process. New research into seedling physiology and better-educated customers have revolutionized traditional concepts of reforestation. We now understand much more about how seedlings function-both in the nursery and after outplanting. In particular, the advent of the container seedling showed the importance of nursery cultural practices and vividly demonstrated important concepts like hardiness and dormancy. Today's seedling customers are very well educated, they know what they want, and they have many choices.

My objective in this paper is not to dictate what type of seedling to use but show how some basic concepts can be used to define the best seedling for any outplanting project - the "target seedling".

The Target Seedling Concept

The target seedling is a relatively new concept but the basic idea can be traced back to the late 1970's and early 1980's when new insights into seedling physiology were radically changing nursery management. A literature search of the Forest Nursery Notes database found nothing published on target seedlings before 1990. In that year, however, the Western Forest Nursery Association conducted a symposium to discuss all aspects of the target seedling, and the resultant proceedings are still a major source of information on the subject.

One of the basic tenets of the target seedling concept is that seedling quality is determined by outplanting performance. Although they might be the same species, forest and conservation seedlings are very different from ornamental nursery stock. For example, a Douglas-fir seedling outplanted in the relatively harsh forest environment will have different requirements from one that is outplanted in a city park. These

differences are pivotal to the target seedling concept because seedling quality depends on the how the seedlings will be used—"fitness for purpose". This means that seedling quality cannot be merely described at the nursery, it can only be proven on the outplanting site. There is no such thing as an "all-purpose" tree seedling. A nice looking seedling at the nursery will not survive and grow well on all sites.

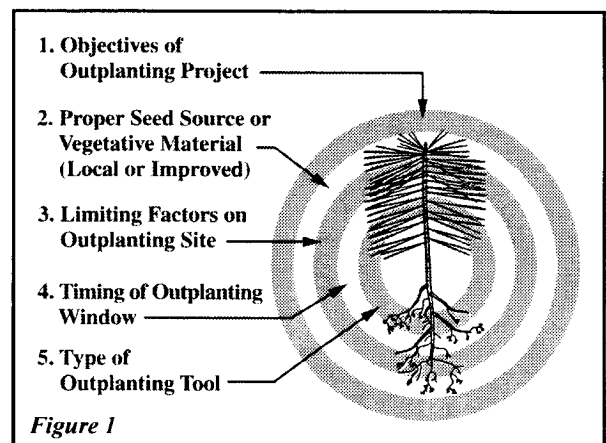
Defining the Target Seedling

Therefore, a target seedling is a plant that has been grown to survive and grow on a specific outplanting site. "One size fits all" does not apply to reforestation.

A target seedling can be defined in five sequential steps (Figure 1):

1. Objectives of Outplanting Project - The reason why seedlings are being planted will have a critical influence on the characteristics of the target seedling. In traditional reforestation, commercially valuable tree species that have been genetically-improved for fast growth are outplanted with the ultimate objective of producing saw logs or pulp. The target seedling for a restoration project will be radically different. A watershed protection project would require riparian trees, shrubs and wetland plants that will not be harvested for any commercial product. Conservation planting projects can have still different objectives. For example, to establish windbreaks in low rainfall areas with no native trees, exotic species may be required.

2. Proper seed source or vegetative plant material - All nursery managers and reforestation specialists are familiar with the idea of seed source. They know that plant species vary throughout their geographic range because they are adapted to local site conditions.



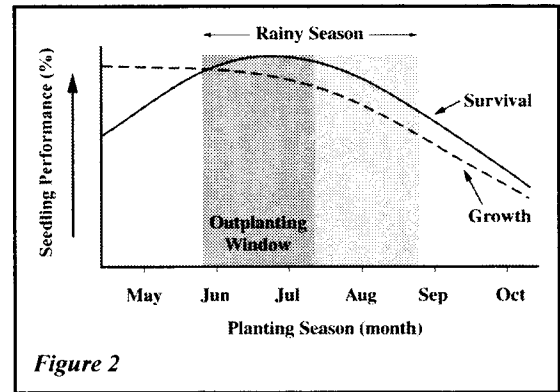
Using a local seed source and collecting from enough individuals to maintain genetic diversity are basic tenets of restoration ecology. The same principals apply to plants that must be propagated vegetatively. Cuttings must be collected from near the outplanting site to make sure that they are properly adapted. Proper seed source can be guaranteed through the use of seed zones, and so the location and elevation of seed is always recorded and included in the seed source identification code.

3. Site conditions - The next step is to identify the limiting factors on the outplanting site. The ecological "principle of limiting factors" can also be applied to reforestation. The specifications of the target seedling should be developed by identifying which environmental factors will be most limiting to survival and growth on that particular site. For example, a fire restoration site in Mexico might have shallow soils and competition for moisture and nutrients from grasses. On the Kenai peninsula in Alaska, however, cold soil temperatures are the limiting factor. Temperature measurements in the shallow rooting zone do not exceed 50 °F (10 °C) during the summer and research has shown that root growth almost stops completely below this temperature threshold. After the seedling customer supplies this information, the nursery manager can produce a seedling that will survive and grow under these specific site conditions.

One outplanting site condition deserves special mention - mycorrhizal fungi. Reforestation sites typically have an adequate complement of mycorrhizal fungi that quickly infect outplanted seedlings whereas many restoration sites do not. For example, severe forest fires or mining operations eliminate all soil microorganisms including mycorrhizal fungi. Therefore, seedlings destined for these sites should receive inoculation with the appropriate fungal symbiont before outplanting.

4. Outplanting window - The timing of the outplanting project must also be considered. The outplanting window is the period of time in which environmental conditions on the outplanting site are most favorable for survival and growth. Soil moisture and temperature are the usual constraints. In the Pacific Northwest, seedlings are outplanted during the rains of winter or early spring. However, because winters in Mexico are sunny and dry, seedling outplanting is done early in the summer rainy season (Figure 2).

Soil temperature rather than moisture is the consideration at high elevations or latitudes. In Alaska, the outplanting window is later in the summer when temperatures are at their peak. Using this information

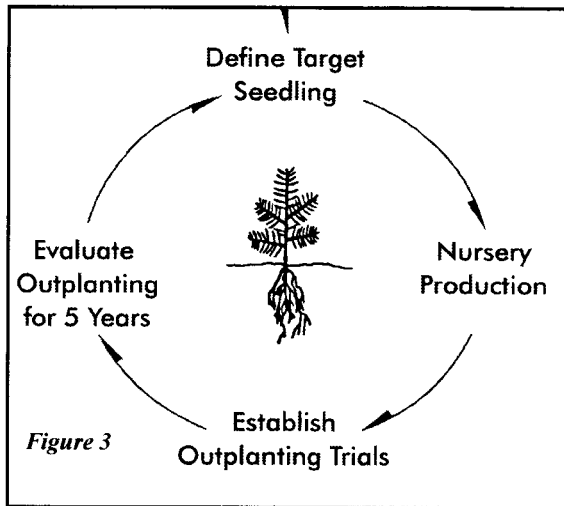


from the seedling customer, a growing schedule for the target seedling can be constructed. Starting at the date of delivery, the nursery manager plans backwards to determine how much time will be required to produce a seedling with the target specifications.

5. Planting Tools - There is an ideal planting tool for each outplanting site. All too often, foresters or other seedling customers will develop a preference for a particular implement because it has worked well in the past. However, no one tool will work under all site conditions. Special planting hoes called hoedads are popular in the steep terrain on the Pacific Northwest but shovels or planting bars are traditionally used in Mexico. The level terrain in the Southern Coastal Plain or on the Kenai peninsula in Alaska allows machine planting. Nursery manager must know the planting tools in advance so that they can grow target seedlings with the appropriate root length and volume.

Improving the Target Seedling

The target seedling is not a static concept but must be continually updated and improved. At the start of the project, the forester and the nursery manager must agree on certain seedling specifications. This prototype target seedling must be verified by outplanting trials in which survival and growth are monitored for up to five years. The first few months are critical because seedlings that die immediately after outplanting indicate a problem with stock quality. Plants that survive initially but gradually lose vigor indicate poor planting or drought conditions. Therefore, plots must be monitored during and at the end of the first year for initial survival. Subsequent checks after 3 or 5 years will give a good indication of seedling growth potential. This performance information is then used to give valuable feedback to the nursery manager who can fine tune the target seedling specifications for the next crop (Figure 3).



Summary

The target seedling concept emphasizes that successful outplanting projects require good communications between the seedling user and the nursery manager. Instead of the traditional linear process which begins in the nursery, the target seedling concept is viewed as a circular feedback system where information from the outplanting site is used to define and refine the best type of seedling.

Sources

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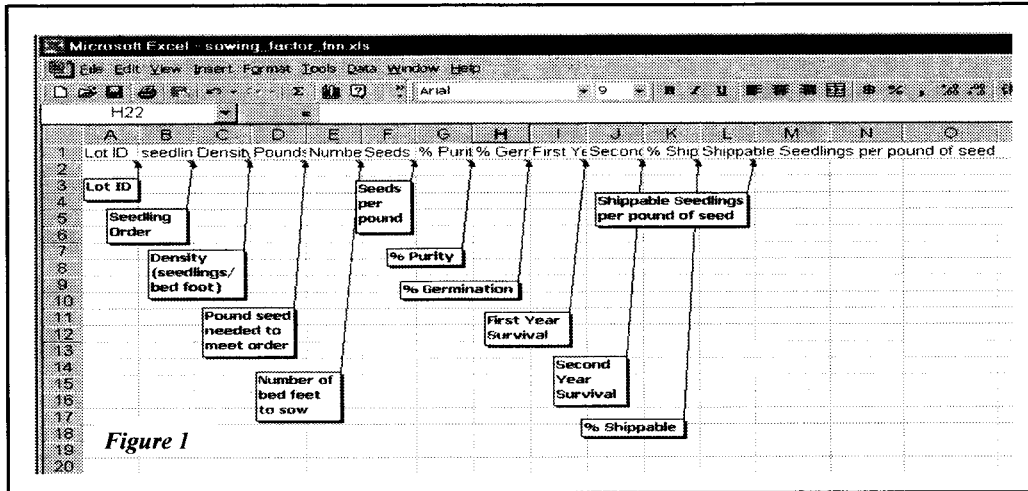
Landis, T.D. 1999. Seedling Stock Types for Outplanting in Alaska. IN: Stocking Standards and Reforestation Methods for Alaska: Proceedings of the Alaska Reforestation Council; 1999 April 29; Anchorage, AK. Misc. Publication 99-8. Fairbanks, AK: University of Alaska, Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station: 78-84.

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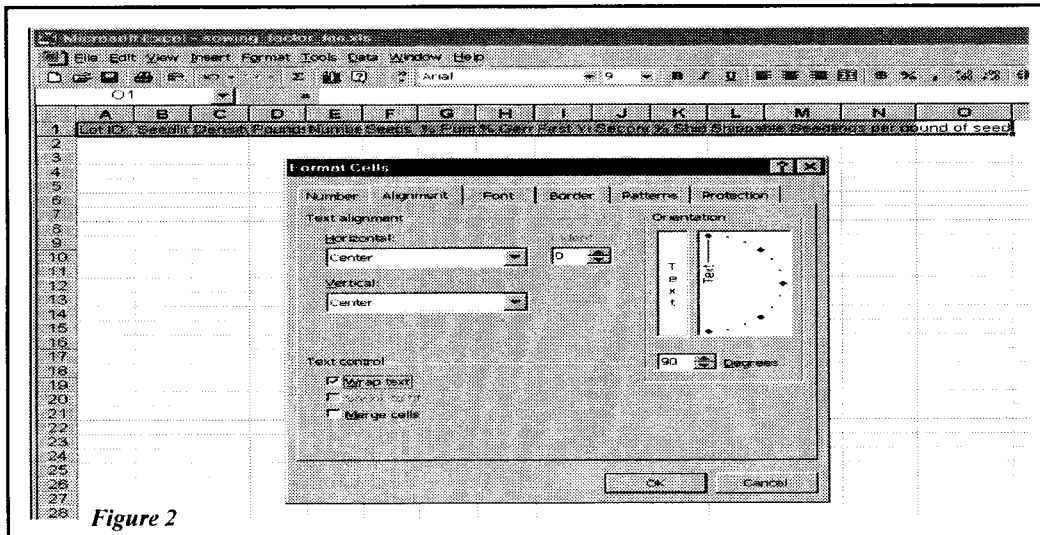
Using A Spreadsheet To Simplify Bareroot Sowing Calculations

Spreadsheets are a great way of keeping lots of data in one place and a quick way of crunching numbers. The following example demonstrates how it can be used to perform sowing calculations. A Microsoft Excel spreadsheet is used in this demonstration, however there are other spreadsheets like Lotus 1-2-3 and Quattro-Pro that work similarly.

Step 1: Start off with a blank spreadsheet. On the first line, type the headings shown in the boxes in Figure 1 starting with "Lot ID". As you move from cell to cell with the tab key you will notice that the portions of the previous cell-have been written over. Don't worry; the information is just hidden from view.



Step 2: Formatting the titles makes any spreadsheet easier to read. Highlight the filled cells by clicking on the first cell with the right mouse button and holding down as you move the cursor to the last cell. Then click the left mouse button and a box will appear. Move your cursor down to "Format Cells" and click. The "Format Cells" box will appear. Click the "alignment" tab at the top of the "Format Cells" box and change your screen so that it matches the "Text Alignment", "Orientation" and "Text control" shown in Figure 2. Then click "ok".



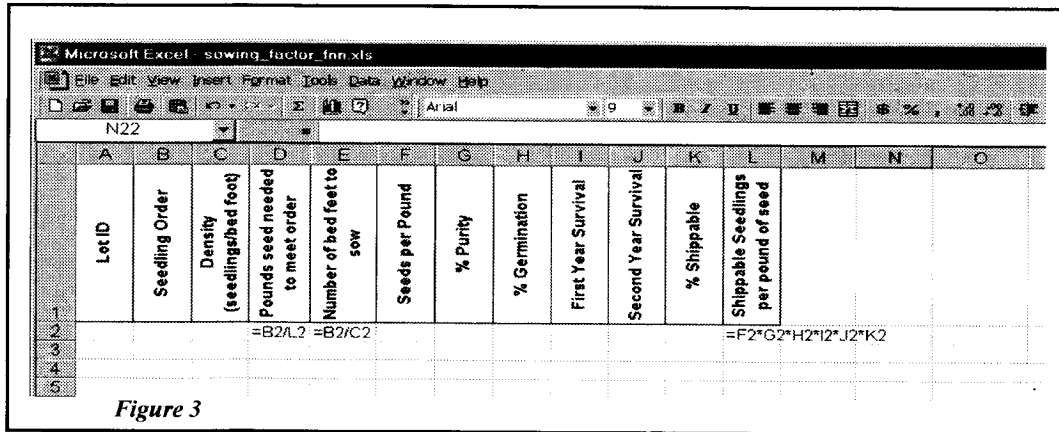
While you are in this box, you can click the "font" tab at the top of the box and change the font size, style, and color to your preference. Then move over to the "border" tab and create the border that you want. You will want to experiment with this.

Step 3: Write the three basic equations just as they are shown in the appropriate cells in Figure 3.

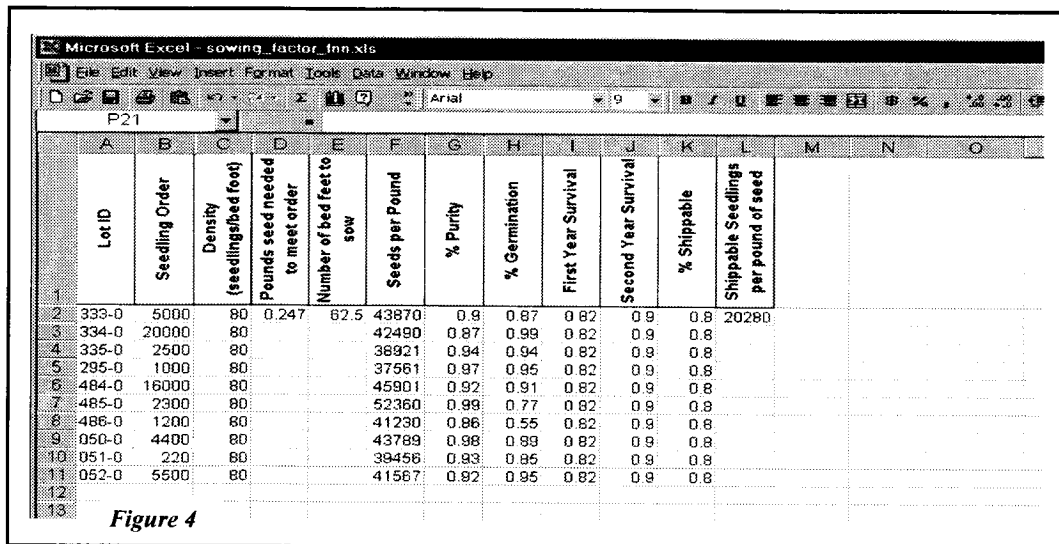
"Pounds of seed needed to meet order" = "Seedling Order" (B2) divided by "Shippable seedlings per pound of seed" (L2). Type =B2/L2 in cell D2.

"Number of bed feet to sow" = "Seedling Order" (B2) divided by "Density" (C2). Type =B2/C2 in cell E2

"Shippable seedlings per pound of seed" = "Seeds per pound" (F2) times "% Purity" (G2) times "% Germination" (H2) times "First year survival" (I2) times "Second year survival" (J2) times "% Shippable" (K2). Type =F2*G2*H2*I2*J2*K2 in cell L2.



Step 4: Fill in the seed data as shown in Figure 4. As you fill in the values on the first line, you will notice that cells with equations are now calculated values.



Step 5: To fill in the equations for the other cells in the columns, right click on cell L2 and bring the cursor to the lower right side of the cell. The cursor turns from an arrow into a cross. Hold down on the right mouse button as you pull down the cursor to the bottom of the column. Let go and the calculation for the shippable seedlings per pound will appear for each row of data. Do the same for columns D and E. Format the table using the instructions in Step 2 and you have now created a table of sowing calculations shown in Figure 5.

The screenshot shows an Excel spreadsheet titled "Microsoft Excel - sowing_factor_fm.xls". The active cell is E20. The spreadsheet contains the following data:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
	Lot ID	Seeding Order	Density (seedlings/bed foot)	Pounds seed needed to meet order	Number of bed feet to sow	Seeds per Pound	% Purity	% Germination	First Year Survival	Second Year Survival	% Shippable	Shippable Seedlings per pound of seed			
1															
2	333-0	5000	80	0.247	62.5	43870	0.9	0.87	0.82	0.9	0.8	20280			
3	334-0	20000	80	0.926	250	42480	0.87	0.99	0.82	0.9	0.8	21607			
4	335-0	2500	80	0.123	31.25	38921	0.94	0.94	0.82	0.9	0.8	20304			
5	295-0	1000	80	0.049	12.5	37561	0.97	0.96	0.82	0.9	0.8	20435			
6	484-0	18000	80	0.705	200	45901	0.92	0.91	0.82	0.9	0.8	22688			
7	485-0	2300	80	0.098	28.75	52360	0.99	0.77	0.82	0.9	0.8	23565			
8	486-0	1200	80	0.104	15	41230	0.96	0.55	0.82	0.9	0.8	11514			
9	050-0	4400	80	0.195	55	43789	0.98	0.89	0.82	0.9	0.8	22549			
10	051-0	220	80	0.012	2.75	39456	0.93	0.85	0.82	0.9	0.8	18415			
11	052-0	5500	80	0.256	68.75	41567	0.92	0.95	0.82	0.9	0.8	21440			
12															
13															

Figure 5

With this procedure you have quickly calculated the pounds of seed to draw from each lot to meet the clients order and number of bed feet to sow for each lot. Try this with your own sowing requests or modify it to meet your own sowing formulas.

Winter "Purpling" In Pine Seedlings

Most nursery workers are familiar with the rather dramatic change in foliar color that occurs in some pine seedlings. Over the years, I have received several inquiries as to the cause and developed the following explanation:

Species Affected:

- Jack pine (*Pinus banksiana*)
- Lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*)
- Ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*)
- Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris*)

Physiological Basis: "Purpling results from cessation of normal primary metabolism, especially protein synthesis, with diversion of the amino acid phenylalanine into secondary metabolites such as the phenylpropanoid anthocyanins via the enzyme phenylalanine ammonia lyase".

Translation: Purpling is caused by the accumulation of anthocyanin pigments in needle tissue. Anthocyanins are normally red but, when combined with the green of chlorophyll pigments, are modified to a purple color.

Implications:

1. Purpling is strongly controlled by seed source with northern sources turning purple earlier than those from further south (Figure 1).
2. Purpling is primarily induced by cold temperatures although a shortening photoperiod is also involved.
3. Mineral nutrient content is not a major factor because even healthy seedlings turn purple. However, low fertility, especially with nitrogen and phosphorus, will cause earlier and more intense coloration (Figure 1).
4. Although purpling is a visible indication of dormancy, it cannot be considered a direct indication of cold hardiness.

Conclusion: The ecological purpose of purpling in first-year pines is unknown but it remains an interesting phenomenon.

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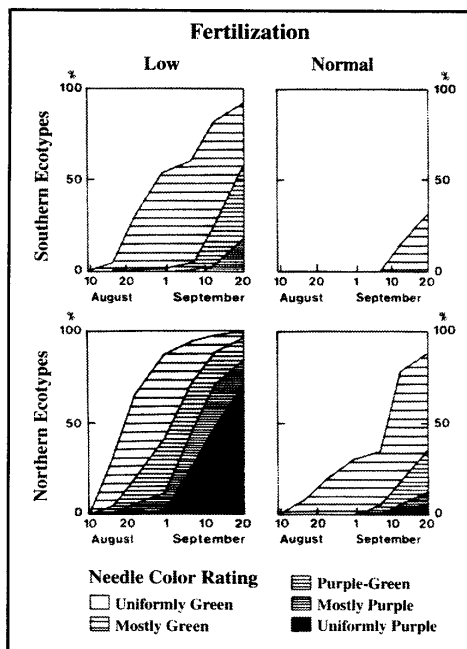


Figure 1 - Winter purpling of Scots pine was related to both ecotype and fertilization level (Toivonen and others 1991)

Integrated Pest Management

Holistic Nursery Pest Management

An expanded version of this article has just been published in the Proceedings from the IUFRO-Diseases and Insects in Forest Nurseries meeting in Finland (see #98 in New Nursery Literature).

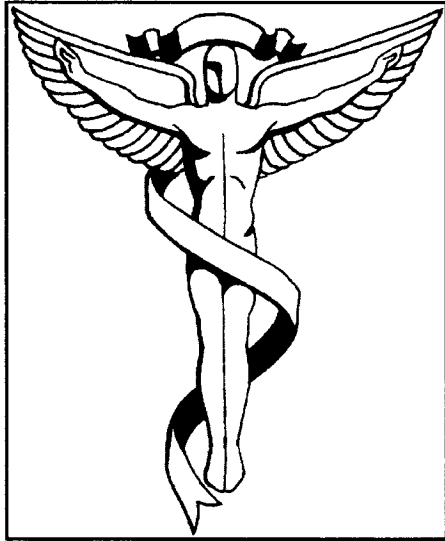


Figure 1 - Holistic medicine views the patient as a whole person and considers the importance of the environment.

Holistic medicine is a relatively recent movement that emphasizes the need to perceive patients as whole persons. It developed as a response to the increasing specialization in medical education that was producing physicians who treated organs rather than the body as a whole. Searching for a cure, patients were referred from doctor to doctor but each was a

specialist in one narrow field. None could see the "big picture" or provide the patient with a comprehensive diagnosis. Another concern was the increasing dependence on drugs in the treatment of disease. Many patients felt that doctors were merely prescribing drugs to treat symptoms, rather than trying to find out the real cause of the disease. Holistic medicine developed as a response to these concerns.

Many of the principles of holistic medicine can be applied to nursery pest management:

Give as much attention to the environment as the pest.

One of the basic tenets of holistic medicine is to recognize how much environment contributes to disease. Everyone is aware of the "disease triangle" concept which emphasizes that a pest, a host, and a conducive environment are all necessary to cause disease. However, the environment often gets overlooked. Nursery workers, and especially pest specialists, tend to focus on specific pest organisms and fail to appreciate the critical importance of the environment in the nursery management. Following holistic principles, we should always consider environmental stresses instead of just working to control pest organisms.

For example, consider the greenhouse environment. The principal reason for raising seedlings in containers in a greenhouse is that all potentially growth-limiting factors can be controlled (Table 1). Seedlings are sown at regular spacing in an artificial soil mix that is formulated for ideal pH and porosity. The atmospheric environment is automated to maintain ideal temperature and relative humidity both day and night.

The ideal propagation environment of a greenhouse has both advantages and disadvantages

	<u>Advantages</u>	<u>Disadvantages</u>	
	No growth-limiting factors in physical environment	Ideal conditions for some pests	No beneficial organisms
Edaphic Factors	1) Water 2) Mineral nutrients	Fungus gnats, <i>Bradysia spp.</i>	Mycorrhizal fungi
Atmospheric Factors	3) Light 4) Humidity 5) Carbon dioxide 6) Temperature	Botrytis blight, <i>Botrytis cinerea</i>	Insect parasites

Table 1

Even carbon dioxide is supplied to accelerate photosynthesis. Unfortunately, what is ideal for seedling growth is also ideal for nursery pests such as fungus gnats (*Bradysia* spp.) and Botrytis blight (*Botrytis cinerea*). The sterile greenhouse environment also excludes many beneficial organisms including mycorrhizal fungi and insect parasites that can keep pest populations in check (Table 1). The ideal growing environment also produces seedlings that are not as hardy as those grown under natural conditions. In particular, high fertilization rates designed to accelerate seedling growth rates also make them susceptible to abiotic stresses.

?? **Are we spending too much time looking for an organism with a "smoking gun"?**

To borrow an analogy from detective novels, we should not become obsessed with trying to identify a "suspect" pest. Most common nursery pests, such as the fungi *Pythium* and *Fusarium*, are not aggressive pathogens but pest specialists have spent a considerable amount of time trying to implicate a particular fungal species or ecotype for a specific disease. These fungi are commonly found in both bareroot and container nurseries and the diseases they cause are usually triggered by environmental stresses. As an example, fungal damping-off is usually not a problem unless soils and growing media become compacted or waterlogged (Figure 2).

?? **Are we treating secondary conditions instead of the real problem?**

Continuing with our root disease example, a great deal of research has been aimed at identifying root pathogens when it might make more sense to work towards creating a better root environment. For instance, we should attempt to create and

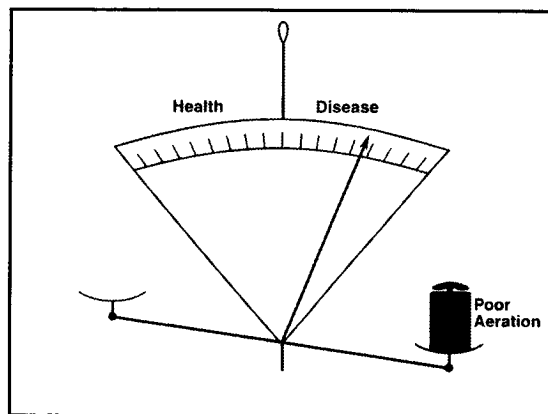


Figure 2 - Most root diseases are triggered by environmental stresses in the soil, especially poor aeration.

maintain soils and growing media with the proper amount of aeration porosity. Air exchange only occurs in the relatively large macropores because the smaller micropores are typically filled with water. Excessive compaction during seedbed formation or when filling containers can destroy these macropores. During the growing season, aeration porosity fluctuates due to irrigation and rainfall when macropores become filled with water. Maintaining adequate porosity in containers is even more difficult because macropores are lost as roots grow. Aeration porosity is gradually reduced as roots expand throughout the container and, by the end of the growing season, is reduced to almost zero because roots have occupied every macropore. This may explain why root diseases often develop late in the growing season when opportunistic fungi attack the weakened roots. Returning to our holistic theme, the real problem behind these root diseases is poor aeration and not merely the presence of pathogenic fungi.

?? **Conclusions and Recommendations**

The basic concepts of holistic medicine can be applied to forest and conservation nurseries in several different ways:

1. Get training in seedling physiology and horticulture - Most people only see what they know. The mystical poet William Blake said it well:

"A fool sees not the same tree that a wise man sees"

All nursery workers, and especially pest specialists, need a basic understanding of seedling physiology and horticultural practices so that they can better diagnose the true cause of seedling problems and design holistic control measures.

2. Put greater emphasis on prevention - Instead of just looking for diseases or insects, pest specialists should work with nursery managers to stress seedling health and modify propagation environments to discourage pests. Consider the example of fungus gnats in a greenhouse. These ubiquitous pests can never be completely eliminated in this wet, moist environment but their populations can be kept to manageable levels by employing holistic practices, especially careful water management.

3. Use pesticides only when necessary - This philosophy should be the cornerstone of nursery pest management: pesticides should be used only after all other environmental and cultural controls have been considered. In applying this concept, the Forest Research Nursery at the University of Idaho reduced the amount of pesticide solution they applied by 80% while still maintaining the same level of seedling production.

This dramatic example was achieved by employing a full range of holistic practices: vigorous sanitation to keep pests from entering the propagation environment, growing regimes that promote hardy seedlings, careful water management, and good ventilation to lower humidity.

4. Promote practical use of beneficial microorganisms -For example, mycorrhizal fungi have been a popular topic for many years and there seems to be a variety of opinions as to their value in forest and conservation nurseries. Some "true believers" feel that mycorrhizae are essential for all phases of nursery culture as well as outplanting, whereas many nursery managers are more skeptical. The holistic approach stresses that mycorrhizal inoculation can be worthwhile, but that the timing of inoculation and the species of fungus should be matched to nursery objectives. In particular, the fungal species should be selected for either the nursery or the

outplanting site. There is no "all-purpose" fungus that will perform well under both conditions. Fungal species that are adapted to withstand outplanting conditions will not survive under the high moisture/high nutrient nursery environment and vice versa. Therefore, nursery pest specialists must work with the nursery personnel and seedling customers to explain that the species of fungus, the type of inoculum, and the timing of the inoculation will vary with the objectives of the treatment.

So, I think that you can see that taking a holistic approach to nursery management can create a better cultural environment and reduce the use of pesticides. It will be necessary to take small risks in order to test holistic principles but I think that you will be pleasantly surprised by what you learn.

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Equipment, Products, and Services

Organic Matter - What You Should Know Before You Buy

Organic matter is an essential ingredient in growing a successful bareroot seedling crop and should play an important part in every nursery's soil management strategy. Here are a few things to think about when shopping for organic matter.

Consider Your Objectives

The type of organic matter you consider purchasing should be based on clear objectives specific to your site and needs. There are several reasons or objectives (see Table 1) for applying organic matter: 1) short term or long term tilth (improving soil physical and chemical properties); 2) addition of nutrients; 3) seedling disease control; 4) seedbed mulch; 5) frost protection and 6) erosion control. Some objectives overlap. For instance, organic matter for seedbed mulching will also provide erosion control and long-term soil tilth when incorporated into the soil between crop rotations. However, others do not - organic material that adds nutrients to soil or cover crops grown for erosion control can sometime promote seedling diseases. Understanding the characteristics of the available organic matter and how you intend to use it will help you determine which material to purchase.

Once you have settled on your objectives locating a source will be easier but nevertheless, still challenging. Paying attention to details will help you avoid the horror stories that some nursery managers have experienced over the years.

Here is a checklist of things to consider.

? Composition

Visit the site where the organic matter is being stockpiled. What you see in the pile is what you will eventually get. For instance, leaves obtained from municipal recycling programs can contain trash, including such items as shoes, oilcans, and toys. If this material is not removed before it is delivered to your nursery, you will have to have it removed when it arrives (Figure 1). Decide on the size range that is acceptable for your objectives. Sawdust material can range from dust to large chunks of scrap lumber (Figure 3). Both sizes can pose problems. Discuss your desired range with the seller. Often the unwanted material can be removed through screening.

Determine how much of the material is actually organic matter? It is not uncommon to have soil, gravel and even ash mixed into the material. While small amounts might be ok, your objective is to incorporate organic matter, not something else. There are several tests offered at soil testing facilities that can be used to determine percent organic matter but the most common is the LOI (loss on ignition). This is simply burning a known weight of material at very high temperatures and weighing the noncombustible remains. This test tends to report somewhat higher organic matter percentages than is actually present in the sample. Based on these results, you will have to decide how much inert material you will accept. There is no real guide for making this decision since every source and nursery circumstance is different. The best approach

	Objectives						
	Short-term tilth	Long-term tilth	Nutrient addition	Disease control	Seedbed mulch	Erosion control	Frost protection
Straw					+	+	+
Alfalfa cover crop	+		+	-		+	
Fresh sawdust	+	+		+	+	+	
Aged sawdust	+	+		+	+	+	
Sewage sludge	+	+	+		-	?	
Composted manure	+		+		-	+	
Pine needles	+	+		?	+	+	+

Table 1. Common Sources of Organic Matter and Objectives

is to revisit your original objectives for why you are applying organic matter and see if this extra material helps or hinders meeting these objectives.



Figure 1: Leaves obtained from municipal recycling programs often include trash that must be removed at the nursery.

? Weeds and toxic substances

There are many tales of woe of how weeds or toxic substances were brought into a nursery through the addition of organic matter purchased from an outside source. You don't want to add to these stories! One simple test can address both these concerns - sow seeds in a sample of the product and observe the results. Here's one way to do it. You will need seed that is stratified and ready for sowing, 3 mason jars with lids and a magic marker (Figure 2). It is advisable to use several species. Fill separate jars with 1) nursery soil (control), 2) organic material, and 3) organic material mixed with soil at the ratio that you plan to incorporate into your nursery beds. The jars should be a half to two thirds full and the material moist but not saturated. In each jar place 10 seeds on the surface and cover with the material normally used in your sowing operations. Screw on the lid and label with date, treatment and species used. Punch a few holes in the lids for aeration. Place jars in a germinator at the optimum temperature for that species or

leave somewhere on a windowsill where it does not get direct sunlight. The jars make for great conversation pieces.

Observe these jars over the course of several weeks and note how many seeds have germinated. Compare germination rates and appearance of germinants with those of other jars. Is there much of a difference? Did the seedlings come up at different times? Are there differences in appearance? You might also see germination of seed that you did not sow. Make note of this. These will be the weeds that you introduce to your nursery if you purchase this material. If you see poorer germination and growth between materials and the control you should consider either not buying the material or conducting further testing. One test is to incorporate the material into your soil. This can be done in small plots that are established before sowing or transplanting. Seed germination and seedling growth can be evaluated over the first or second growing season to see what differences occur.

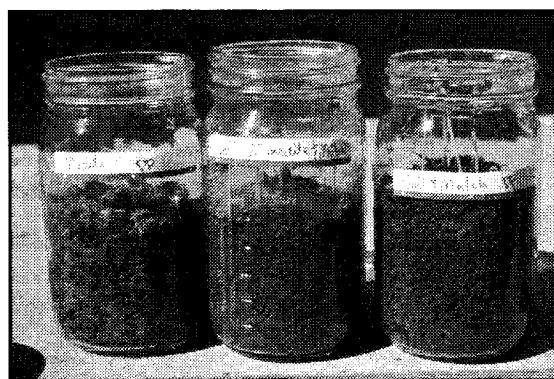


Figure 2: Seeds grown on organic material can identify if it includes weeds or toxic substances

? pH and Soluble Salts

pH and soluble salt tests are reasonably inexpensive to perform and will yield very basic information about the material. Both tests can be done at your nursery with the purchase of a pH and electrical conductivity meters. The optimum pH values for forest tree nurseries generally range from 5.5 to 6.0. Purchasing organic matter with values more than 1.0 outside of this range should be discussed with a nursery consultant to determine how the material will affect the overall soil pH.

Presence of salts is detected with an electrical conductivity meter. Incorporating material that is high in soluble salts can decrease germination and reduce survival and growth of most species.

Electrical conductivity values greater than 2 milliSeimens/cm² (mmhos/cm²) are usually too high for good sources of organic matter.

? Mineral Nutrients

If you are considering buying organic matter that is high in nutrients, you must decide if these are nutrients you actually need for your soil. Reviewing recent soil test results for your nursery and your soil management plan will help you make this decision. In some instances, organic matter containing excessive nutrients can actually interfere with other macro or micro nutrients, making them less available to the plant.

? Costs

Maintaining or increasing the present organic matter in your nursery soil can be very expensive. Not only the purchase but also the transportation, spreading and incorporation in the soil, can be as expensive as the material itself. Costs however, should never prevent you from making organic matter an integral part of your soil management program, nor compromise your objectives. High costs might make you consider different sources and easier ways of applying and incorporating into the soil.



Figure 3: Large wood scraps are common in sawdust piles and should be screened.

Sampling & Lab Testing

As they say with computers, garbage in ...garbage out, the same goes with soil testing. Testing laboratories will only give you information on the samples that you send them, so it is important to collect enough samples and in the right areas to be representative of the material you are interested in purchasing.

Collect several composite samples representing different portions of the piles and locate where you collected them on a map. To collect a composite sample, randomly dig from one area at least a half dozen shovel-size scoops and mix into a bucket. Take your sample from that. Obtain samples from deep in the pile as well as on the surface. Keep in mind that the testing facilities will sieve out gravel-sized and larger material. Since sawdust, bark and other organics often contain material larger than this, it is important to notify the lab not to sieve your sample.

Look for a reputable lab that will process these samples quickly and use the same lab to maintain consistency from year to year. As a check for lab quality, take one sample and split it in half. Send each as a separate sample to see if the results that come back are the same. To check lab consistency from year to year, collect a large sample and keep in a cooler or freezer. Take a sample from this reference whenever a group of samples are sent to the lab. The results from these samples should be the same from year to year.

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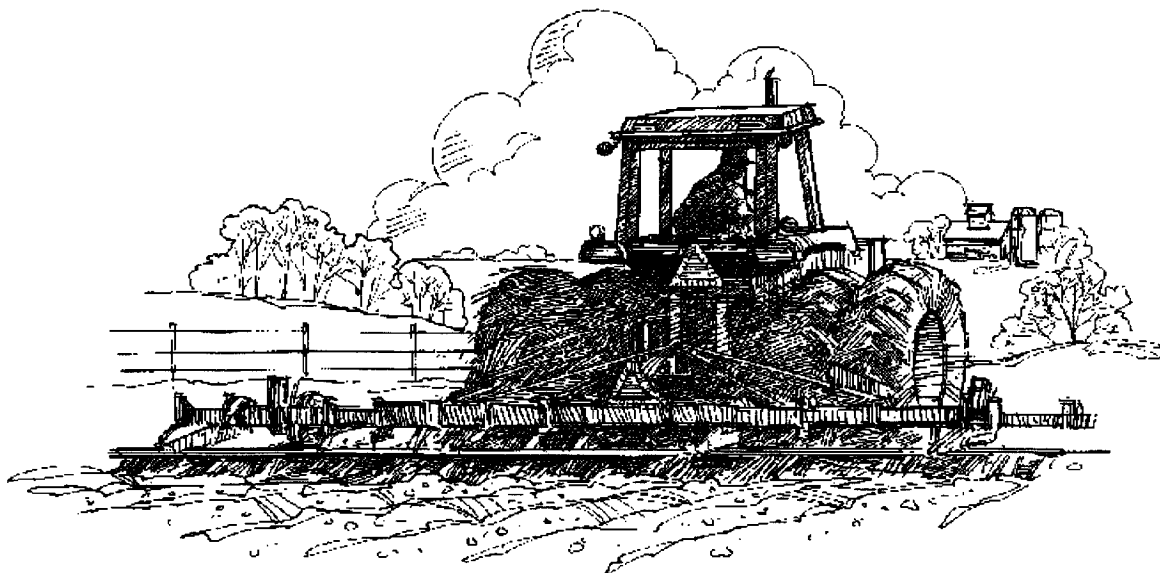
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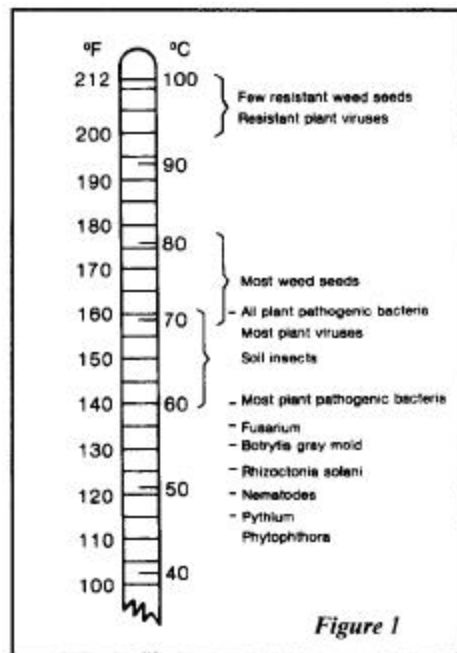
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The Growers Hot Vats - Container Sterilization Equipment

Hot water sterilization has been used to control pests that might be held over in used containers. Most pathogens and weed seeds are killed when containers are held at 70°C to 80°C (158-176°F) for 3 minutes (Figure 1).

Growers Hot Vats are designed to sterilize any type of container that will fit into them. Blocks or containers are stacked into a cage (Figure 2), which is hydraulically submerged into a hot water vat. This system uses a gas burner to maintain a constant temperature - there is no wait between cycles for the water to warm back up.



Production is only limited by the speed at which the blocks can be placed in and out of the cage. The manufacturer supplies baskets for stacking containers before lifting into the Hot Vat, however, this involves heavy lifting by hand. An alternative is to fabricate a stand with rollers that easily moves racks of containers into the Hot Vat (Figure 2). The rack can be loaded on the ground and then lifted with a forklift onto the stand. This speeds up the process and eliminates hand lifting.

The number of blocks that can be sterilized in one dip depends on the size and dimensions of the blocks and how they are arranged. Generally 50 Styroblocks can be dipped at one time. Using the system described above, two people can keep the vat in constant use, which equates to about 300 to 350 dips per hour.

This product has been on the market for about two years and since then the company has modified the vat based on consumer feedback. It costs \$8250 without shipping. For more information call Northern at 1.800.328.8900 or E-mail at northern@willmer.com.



The ThermoChron iButton - Miniaturized Temperature Recorders

Imagine a computer, clock and thermometer condensed into the size of a small battery, no larger than several nickels stuck together (Figure 1). Then, imagine that this object can record temperatures between -40°C to $+85^{\circ}\text{C}$ (-40°F to $+185^{\circ}\text{F}$) for more than 10 years or up to 1 million temperature measurements, whichever comes first. Set the price at around \$10 and you have the new DS 1921 ThermoChron iButton. Since this single-chip recording device is submersible, and resistant to dirt and impact it can be used to monitor most temperatures encountered in the nursery.

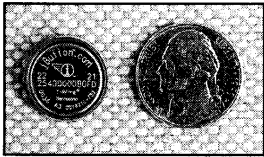


Figure 1

Placing an iButton into the Blue Dot receptor (a \$25 attachment to a PC) will instantly call up its history and allow it to be reprogrammed for future missions. Data is displayed in a temperature over time chart and in a histogram (figure 2) showing how many minutes the temperatures were out of the target temperature range that you define. The data can also be downloaded into a spreadsheet or right onto its own website (each button is web addressable).

One time period where reliable temperature data is critical for assessing stock quality is from harvesting to outplanting. For many seedlings this can be as long as 6 months. For example, an iButton could be placed into a tub of seedlings during lifting, remain with the seedlings through packing and then into long-term storage. Months later, after the seedlings have been moved from storage, transported to the outplanting site, a forester could remove the iButton. The temperature information could be downloaded on the spot or taken back to the office to print out a graph. The forester could immediately see how many total hours the seedlings were outside of a critical temperature range such as above 3°C (38°F) or below -3°C (27°F) and determine when this happened.

Another great aspect of this technology is that sensors can be quickly and easily downloaded at any point in time and then placed back into position for further recording. Any tampering with an iButton is recorded into its memory and detected electronically. The ThermoChron iButton is priced at \$10.00 each in quantities of 1,000. You might want to start with the ThermoChron iButton Evaluation Kit, which is available for \$25 from <www.iButton.com>. This kit includes an iButton, Blue Dot receptor, and mounting accessories. Downloadable evaluation software is available at no charge at that website.

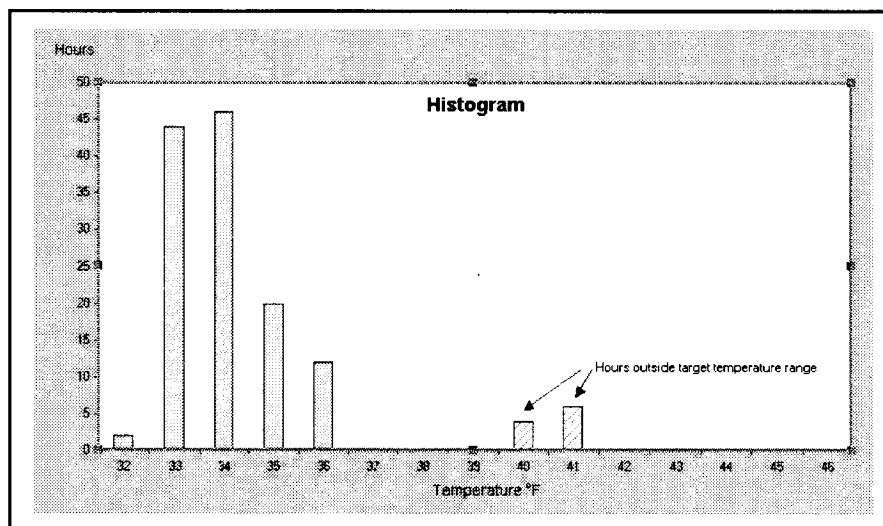
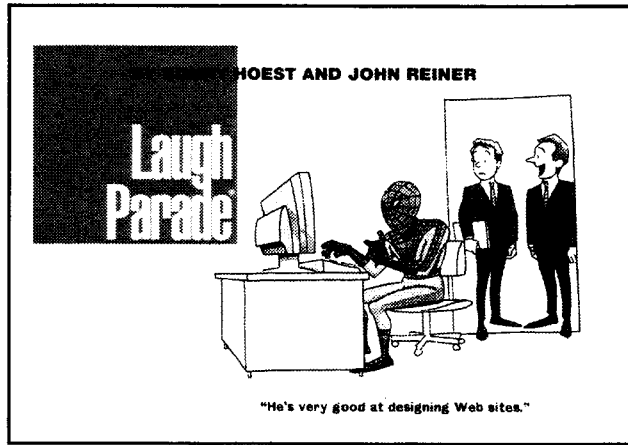


Figure 2

Horticultural Humor

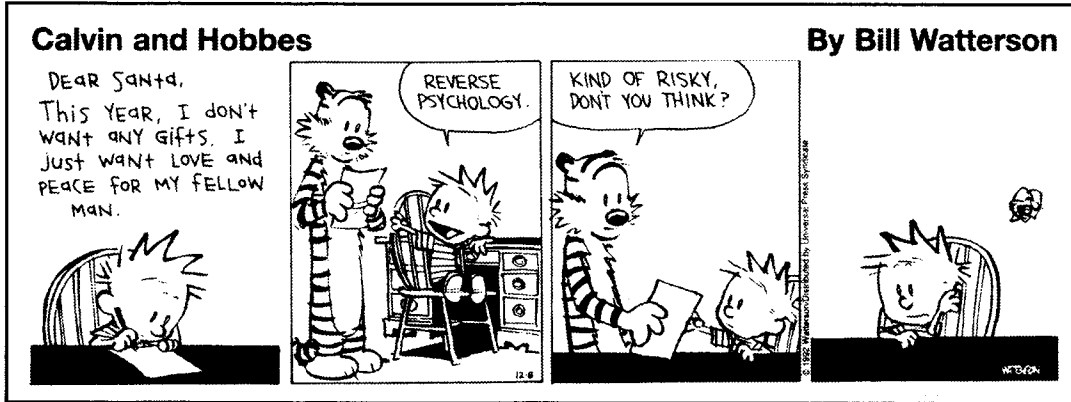


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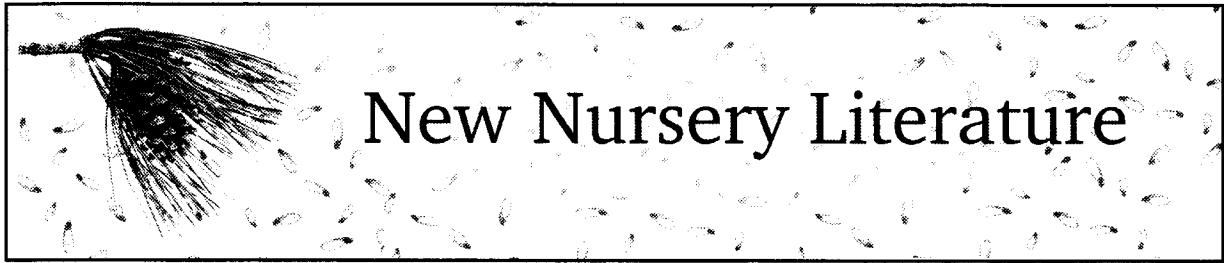


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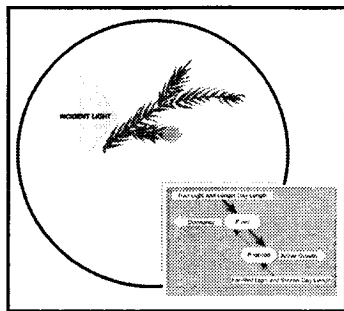


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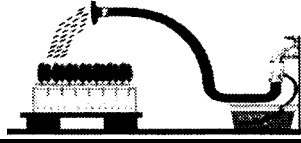
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Dd

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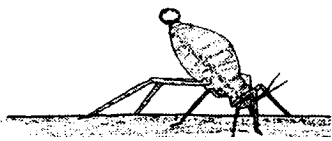
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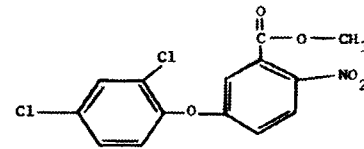
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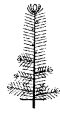
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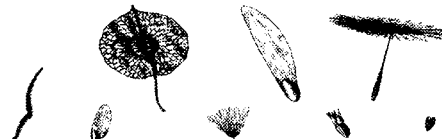
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Nursery Directory

The Reforestation, Nurseries, and Genetic Resources (RNGR) Home Page (<http://www.mgr.net>) contains a state-by-state directory of forest and conservation nurseries. There is also a list of nurseries that specialize in native plants in the Native Plant Network section. Use the following form to add your nursery to the directory, or update your listing. Note that we can list your E-mail and WWW home page address so that customers can contact you directly. Send this form back with your literature order form or fax it to: 541.858.6110.

Example:

Utah				
Updated: December, 1999				
Nursery Name & Address	Ownership Type	Stock Type	Current Season Seedling Distribution	Potential Seedling Distribution
WWW: http://www.nr.state.ut.us/slf/lonepeak/home.htm Lone Peak Conservation Center 271 West Bitterbrush Lane Draper, UT 87020-9599 TEL: 801.571.0900 FAX: 801.571.0468 E-mail: nrsf.szeidler@state.ut.us		Bareroot	400,000	800,000
		Container	2000,000	210,000

= Yes, list my nursery in the Native Plant section

Your Nursery:

Your State				
Updated:				
Nursery Name & Address	Ownership Type	Stock Type	Current Season Seedling Distribution	Potential Seedling Distribution

= Yes, list my nursery in the Native Plant section

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Contact Information for Reforestation, Nurseries,
and Genetic Resources (RNGR)
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