

NURSERYMEN'S RESPONSIBILITY
IN MANAGING OUR GREAT RESOURCES

by

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My remarks today are going to be very brief. I was expected to be here this morning, but I ran into a grass fire on the way over. As you know, fires come first.

About seven years ago, on January 17 and 18, 1949, we held our first nurserymen's meeting at Seattle. Since that time there was a meeting at Portland in 1951; in 1952, New Westminster, B.C.; in 1954, Sacramento; and this year, here. I have worked with others to get this organization started, but I think the lion's share of the credit for getting nurserymen's meetings started in this area should go to Charles Spark.

I want to speak to you briefly today about your responsibility as nurserymen in this picture of managing our great resources. You have a tremendous responsibility as part of the team with our foresters. You fit right into that team. I feel very strongly that we can do no better job here in the United States than to do a good job of managing our natural resources. Each day it becomes more important that we do a good job of managing our resources.

Wood is one item that is not going to be in oversupply for a great many years. When it comes to wood fibre, we do not have an oversupply. The demand keeps going up. The lumber is dropping, but the fibre is going up. You have to see that a proper supply of wood keeps coming along all the time. We have got to have good trees. The type of trees you produce is the type of trees we need to make pulp products we need. I thought that would be the message I came to bring to you today. I enjoyed being here, but don't you fellows let yourselves down as far as the responsibility you carry in your work.

(End of Paper)

Chairman Deffenbacher introduced Mr. Thomas Greathouse, Forester, United States Forest Service, whose topic was "The Planting Man's Ideal Tree."

Mr. Greathouse outlined the reforestation program of the Olympic National Forest, which has reforested a larger area than any other National Forest in the Northwest.

As preparation for his talk on the ideal tree, he interviewed Walt Millo, a planting contractor, who last year reforested about 3,500 acres for the Olympic. Mr. Millo stated that 2-0 trees, readily visible after planting with a sturdy stem and healthy crown, were important for the morale of his crew. A bulletin issued by the Central States Experimental Station stated that survival of planted Yellow Poplar trees was affected by seedling size and degree of root pruning. The bulletin confirmed Mr. Millo's preference, but on a scientific basis. Mr. Greathouse summarized the top to root ratio, pointing out that it may be one of the major

factors in the survival of seedlings, although there is much to be learned in this field. He expressed preference for seedlings from plus or elite trees grown in areas similar to those they wish to plant. He also mentioned the problem of producing trees which would be distasteful to livestock.

Mr. Greathouse's paper follows:

THE PLANTING MAN'S IDEAL TREE

by

Thomas Greathouse
Forester, Olympic National Forest

My friends, whether Republican, Democrat, or Independent, I bring tidings from Mason Bruce, Supervisor of the Olympic, who was unable to attend. At his request, I will attempt to describe our concept of the ideal tree for planting.

The Olympic has now reforested about 43,000 acres. This is more than any other National Forest in the Pacific Northwest. During the last three years, due primarily to the salvage program on the approximately 19,000 acres of National Forest land which were covered by the Forks and Bear Creek Burns of 1951 and 1952, we have stepped up our planting activities considerably above normal.

Plans for the coming planting season call for reforestation about 4,800 acres; 3,700 of this is proposed for planting, the rest seeding. The program peaked last year with 5,500 acres being planted and 600 seeded, as compared to 3,200 planted and 1,100 seeded the year previously.

Before I get to the theme of this talk, I might say that I feel somewhat like a school boy trying to explain the 4th Dimension to Einstein. As nurserymen, you have been listening to the complaints and suggestions of tree planters for a number of years. I hope that I can add to the constructive suggestions that you have received.

My first preparation for this talk consisted of an interview with Walt Millo, a planting contractor, who last year reforested about 3,500 acres for the Olympic besides work that he did for other Forests and Rayonier Company. I thought that his comments were interesting enough to pass on to you, even though there may be some conflict between his idea of the perfect tree and those ideas developed by research. Millo stated that 2-0 trees, readily visible after planting, with a sturdy stem and healthy crown, were important for the morale of his crew. A good tree planter is like most other people; he wants to be able to see what he has accomplished. Most 1-0 trees have such small crowns that it is difficult for the planters to see their previous rows. Frost-damaged trees, such as we planted last year, sometimes present the same problem. A sturdy stem is easier to handle than a scrawny one. Millo's sample 2-0 tree measured about 1/8-inch in diameter. Since Crossitt, Rindt and Gunning listed 3/32-inch as a minimum for conifers, there is no conflict here.

A bulletin, entitled "How to Grade Yellow Poplar Planting Stock," which was issued October, 1953, by the Central States Experiment Station, confirms Millo's thoughts, but on a scientific basis. This paper stated that survival of a planted yellow poplar tree was significantly affected by two interrelated factors: