

VALLONIA NURSERY
Steve Pennington 1

The Vallonia Nursery is located in Southern Indiana, in the southern part of Jackson County, about 3 miles south of the small town of Vallonia, Indiana.

This nursery is one of two nurseries being operated presently by the Indiana Division of Forestry; the other being in Northern Indiana near Medaryville (Jasper-Pulaski Nursery).

The natural history of the area around the Vallonia Nursery is mixed, with some glaciated, some non-glaciated, and some river formed and loess lands. The nursery soils are comprised mostly of Princeton and Bloomfield loamy sands which are ideal for nursery production. Many flint artifacts are found on the nursery, indicating heavy use by the American Indian pre-Columbian population.

The Vallonia Nursery was built in 1936 by the U.S. Forest Service to supply seedlings to the three National Forests in Indiana, Illinois, and Ohio. In 1965, the Forest Service leased the Nursery to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources which has been operating the nursery ever since.

The management and labor force at Vallonia Nursery consists of the property manager, assistant manager, clerk, 3 salaried laborers, and 8 to 25 seasonal laborers. Also, the Division of Forestry's Entomologist and tree-improvement specialist maintain their offices at the nursery. Recently, CETA and YACC program employees have been utilized. This total work force is producing over 30 species of graded pine, hardwood and wildlife shrub species annually.

Recent developments at Vallonia Nursery include the installation of a complete, new irrigation system; the construction of a greenhouse for tree-grafting; a new drainage system; and an extensive rehabilitation program on all buildings and fixtures. Some expansion of area under irrigation has been done and more is being planned. In the period from 1970 to the present, approximately 25 acres of seed orchards for black walnut, tulip tree, Virginia pine, chestnut, and a variety of wildlife shrub species (olive, dogwood, hawthorne, crab, etc.) have been established.

The management of Vallonia Nursery is currently developing and pursuing updated policies in weed control, weed sanitation, cover crop management, and other nursery programs. These management practices are the ones we would like to demonstrate and discuss during the 1979 N.E. Nurserymen's Conference.

¹ Reforestation Supervisor, Indiana Division of Forestry, Indianapolis, IN