

USDA FOREST SERVICE, FOREST HEALTH
RESISTANCE SCREENING CENTER DISPLAY

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Abstract. The Resistance Screening Center (RSC) is operated by the Forest Health Unit of the USDA Forest Service, Southern Region, State and Private Forestry. The Center is located at the Bent Creek Experimental Forest near Asheville, NC. The Center evaluates pine seedlings for resistance to fusiform rust (caused by *Cronartium fusiforme*) and pitch canker (caused by *Fusarium annosum*) as a service to tree improvement specialists, seed orchard managers, scientists, government agencies, research institutions, universities, and private industry. Testing enables clients to obtain information on the relative resistance of their materials in much less time than is possible in field progeny tests. The RSC provides information on resistance in 8 to 11 months, depending on species and disease, whereas field progeny tests require 4 or 5 years. By using information from these tests, trees producing rust-resistant progeny are identified.

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