



# California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection State Nursery Program



CDF's Nursery Program is designed to provide a high quality, diverse inventory of seed and seedlings from forestland throughout the State of California. These seedlings are available when needed for reforestation following wildfire, erosion control, forest stand improvement, watershed protection, and windbreaks. The program ensures a continuous supply of high-quality native conifer and hardwood seedlings for most forested areas of California where catastrophic wildfire may occur. In the past 10 years, CDF's two nurseries have produced an average of 1.8 million seedlings per year, or enough to have reforested more than 60,000 acres. In addition, as CDF's native conifer stock includes those used as Christmas trees, most if not all Christmas tree growers purchase their seedlings from the CDF Nurseries. The Lewis A. Moran Reforestation Center (LAMRC) and the State Seed Bank are located in Yolo County near the city of Davis, and the Magalia Reforestation Center (MRC) is in Butte County near the town of Paradise.

Board of Forestry and Fire Protection public policy prohibits the Nursery Program from directly competing with privately owned nurseries throughout the State. To ensure private nurseries are not impacted by CDF operations, state foresters conduct annual price surveys of privately owned and operated conifer nurseries. CDF then sells its seedlings priced in the upper two-thirds of the price survey. In addition, most seedlings are grown on a speculative basis, as wildfires are an unforeseen disaster. Seedlings are sold to private landowners, not for re-sale or landscape uses.

Past fire history, along with input from private landowners, dictates what species and elevation zones are raised each year. The Nursery Program also conducts research projects and is in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and private timber industry in developing and maintaining superior seed, as well as disease resistant seed from natural stands for use on private and public lands for tree improvement.

CDF also offers non-timber species for erosion control and wildlife habitat restoration and research projects. The Department contracts with public agencies and private landowners to collect, process and germinate seed from native forbs and shrubs. Current projects include production of Button Willow for fish habitat, sage and bitterbrush for wildlife habitat restoration on federal lands, and pine species provided to the University of California for pitch canker research.

**The Lewis A. Moran Reforestation Center (LAMRC)** was started in 1917 as the Davis Nursery. It was renamed in 1986 in honor of CDF's first Director, Lewis A. Moran. This facility houses the main container growing facility as well as the invaluable seed bank. The State



Seed Bank stores a large volume of coniferous seed, genetically adapted to all areas and elevations in California. The seed is made available for private nursery use as well as CDF's nurseries. Native trees and shrubs are grown for public and private landowners. LAMRC produces an average of 300,000 seedlings annually. More than 95 percent of the seedling stock is grown without promise for sale, keeping available adaptable seedlings for a range of seed zones in the State. Seed is collected, processed, tested, and stored at zero degrees, ensuring a supply of seed remains available to forest nurseries and industrial landowners in California. The seed bank processes anywhere from 2,000 to 10,000 bushels of conifer and hardwood seed each year. Small batches of seed are tested each year to ensure they will still germinate, keeping a viable seed supply. While the bank stores seed for up to 40 years, the goal is to store at least a 10-year supply for each adaptive zone and elevation.

**The Magalia Reforestation Center (MRC)**, located in the foothills of Butte County, has been in production since 1952. MRC produces an average of 2.5 million seedlings annually. Of these, 99 percent are grown on speculation, with the purpose of aiding the private nurseries in keeping all geographical areas of the State ensured of a seedling supply each year. Recently, much of MRC's seedlings have been used for reforestation of areas burned in the large wildfires that have occurred in California in the past five years. Foresters in the program work closely with CDF's Fire Protection staff to evaluate fire prone regions of California for the purpose of planning production. CDF has expanded the nursery to its current size of 15 acres for bare root production, and in 2000, added a greenhouse facility. The greenhouse is used to grow true fir and sugar pine container grown seedlings for transplanting into the bare root facility.

Both reforestation centers maintain an updated list of private nurseries within the State to refer landowners to when CDF is unable to meet their needs.

Price lists and order forms for both nurseries may be downloaded from the CDF website at [www.fire.ca.gov/ResourceManagement/StateNurseries.asp](http://www.fire.ca.gov/ResourceManagement/StateNurseries.asp). You may also contact the nurseries directly: Lewis A. Moran Reforestation Center at (530) 753-2441, or the Magalia Reforestation Center at (530) 873-0400.

