CAL FIRE Seedling Order Process

The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) is responsible for appropriately stewarding the seed and seedling production at the L.A. Moran Reforestation Center (LAMRC). The Reforestation Center must observe and comply with directives laid out by the Public Resources Code regarding seed and nursery operations.

Given the year-to-year uncertainty in seed collections, the effort required to wild-collect conifer seed, and limited production capacity of the nursery, it may not be possible to supply seed and/or seedlings for all projects.

SEEDLING ORDERS

The Reforestation Center exclusively produces one-year old containerized seedlings grown in styro-91 styroblocks. This results in a rootball approximately 6” deep and 1” in diameter, with seedlings ranging from 6” – 15” tall depending on species.

In general, the Reforestation Center uses seed from the State Seed Bank to produce seedlings. In special circumstances, it may be possible for the customer to provide their own seed, which will be decided on a case-by-case basis with the nursery staff.

Requests for all seedlings are to be submitted via the request form on the Reforestation Services Program page of CAL FIRE’s website.

CAL FIRE will consider available seedlings from the same seed zone and elevation as the planting site, as well as seedlings from different seed zones and elevations considered to be at least moderately suitable by the Climate-Adapted Seed Tool Model developed by UC Davis and the United States Forest Service relative to projected future species migration (in production).

Seedlings are grown for contracts in the year after they are requested. This means there is a 12 to 18 month delay between placing an order and receiving seedlings ready to plant. Please refer to the diagram below for more details.

If you are seeking to make a request on a shorter timeline, please refer to the discussion on speculative seedlings below.

Example seedling ordering timeline – Contract Order

| April 1st, Year 1: Begin accepting orders for seedlings that will be grown in Year 2. Orders will continue to be accepted until there is no space in the nursery or until October 1, Year 1. |
| November, Year 2 to April, Year 3: Seedlings are available for pick up and planting. Seedlings are kept in cold storage from November Year 2 until pick up. |

Spring year 1 | Summer year 1 | Fall year 1 | Winter year 1 | Spring year 2 | Summer year 2 | Fall year 2 | Winter year 2

| October to December, Year 1: Begin stratifying seeds to break dormancy and prepare for sowing in Spring Year 2. |
| March to May, Year 2: Seedlings for orders placed Year 1 are sown in the greenhouse. They will grow until November/December when they are packed for pick up. |

Last Update 2022.08.10
For **CONTRACT ORDERS** (Requests for **more than 1,000 seedlings**, to be placed in the spring/summer of the year preceding sowing):

*Seedlings requested as part of a cost share program or reforestation grant:*

Seedling requests that are part of reforestation grants or cost share programs supported by CAL FIRE (*California Forest Improvement Program/CFIP*, *Forest Health, Urban & Community Forestry*, etc.) or other agencies (*Environmental Quality Incentives Program/EQIP*, *Emergency Forest Restoration Program/EFRP*, etc.) will be given preference and accepted on a first come, first serve basis **beginning on April 1** of the year prior to sowing and continuing until no more growing space is available or until the ordering deadline for the species in question has passed, whichever comes first.

Requests for seedlings funded by a **Cost-Share or Grant Program** are accepted during the following application window:

| April 1st — Until space no longer available or Species Ordering Deadline* |

CAL FIRE will confirm participation in an incentive program prior to agreeing to a sowing request. Prospective customers will be contacted via email as soon as a determination as to **whether the request can be fulfilled**.

*All other contract seedling requests:*

All other contract requests must be **placed during one of two windows: April 1 to July 15, or August 1 to September 15**. Requests will be considered against all others made during the same window and prioritized based on the criteria below. If the nursery reaches capacity after the first round of requests, we will not accept a second round. Please refer to the LAMRC website for updates on a given year’s ordering process.

**All other Contract Requests** will have the following application windows:

| April 1st to July 15th | August 1st to September 15th |

**1st PRIORITY**

- Projects intended to reforest land severely disturbed by fire, flooding, pest outbreaks, disease, or other natural events

**2nd PRIORITY**

Last Update 2022.08.10
➢ Restoration of native tree and plant species threatened with extinction, watershed and riparian protection

3rd PRIORITY
➢ Land being reforested as part of a forest management plan (THP, NTMP, WFMP, etc.)

4th PRIORITY
➢ Tree farms, biomass plantations, short-rotation forest products

5th PRIORITY
➢ Research and demonstration projects, including medical studies or trials, climate change adaptation and mitigation, public-benefit nursery start-ups, etc.

6th PRIORITY
➢ Windbreaks, revegetation of utility and transportation corridors, and other site stabilization

For all priorities listed or for other intended uses, land ownership will be given preference in the following order:
  ▪ a) Privately-owned non-industrial and tribal lands
  ▪ b) State, regional, local government, and public lands
  ▪ c) Federal, privately-owned industrial and other lands

Prospective customers will be contacted via email within a week after the close of the request window with a determination as to whether the request can be fulfilled. If the customer does not respond confirming their order within 2 weeks, the request will be voided.

PRICING AND PAYMENT:

• Contract seedlings are $0.50 per seedling.
• Contract orders require a 10% deposit paid at the time the request is placed. The only exception to this is approved cost-share grants or contracts (CFIP, etc.) which have not been fully executed at the time the order is placed.
• The remainder of the cost for seedlings is due at the time of pick up.
• All seedling orders must be picked up no later than April 30th.

*Species Ordering Deadline (relative to seed stratification):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Species</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 15</td>
<td>Sugar Pine (<em>Pinus lambertiana</em>), Gray Pine (<em>Pinus sabiniana</em>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 15</td>
<td>Red Fir (<em>Abies magnifica</em>), Torrey Pine (<em>Pinus torreyana</em>)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Last Update 2022.08.10
For **SPECULATIVE ORDERS** (any request for **fewer than 1,000 seedlings**, or last-minute requests of any size):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Seedling Types</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December 15</td>
<td>Incense Cedar (<em>Calocedrus decurrens</em>), Ponderosa Pine (<em>Pinus ponderosa</em>),</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Douglas Fir (<em>Pseudotsuga menziesii</em>), Jeffrey Pine (<em>Pinus jeffreyi</em>), Coulter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pine (<em>Pinus coulteri</em>), White Fir (<em>Abies concolor</em>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 15</td>
<td>Coast Redwood (<em>Sequoia sempervirens</em>), Giant Sequoia (<em>Sequoiadendron giganteum</em>), Bishop Pine (<em>Pinus muricata</em>), Monterey Pine (<em>Pinus radiata</em>), Monterey Cypress (<em>Cupressus macrocarpa</em>)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CAL FIRE accepts requests for speculative orders from **November 15** each year **until all seedlings have been claimed or until April 1 of the following year, whichever comes first.**

**PRICING AND PAYMENT:**

- Payment is required prior to pick up. CAL FIRE will not “hold” speculative seedling requests without payment.
- Speculative orders are $0.60 per seedling for orders less than 500 seedlings total, and $0.55 per seedling for orders of more than 500 seedlings.

- **Seedling Count from 1 to 499: $0.60 per seedling**
- **Seedling Count from 500 to 999: $0.55 per seedling**

- **All seedling orders must be picked up no later than April 30th.**