

Extraction
Frommer & Rollins

Comments: Hill -- Our seed costs for Pennsylvania compare very closely with the results in New York.

Comments: Terrell -- The balsam fir cost for New York was high due to the low yield of seed per cone.

Question: Olsen -- On the Norway spruce mentioned, was climbing or the squirrel-cut method used?

Answer: Frommer -- Only squirrel cuts in this 48 year-old plantation (planted in 1917).

Question: Beibesheimer In air drying balsam, is there additional heat required and what temperature for storage?

Answer: Additional heat is used only to dry the seed after the seed is extracted, This seed is stored at 34°F.

Question. Is the balsam fir seed in a bumper year better than in an off year?

Answer: In general, ye's, more viable seeds per cone should result; however, adequate pollination is often affected by climatic factors, Individual trees may vary in seed quality.

Comments: Cook -- In addition, insect damage to the balsam may affect seed quality.

Comments: DeLong -- In Japanese larch, collected in Pennsylvania last year, distinct differences in yields were obtained from plantations only ten miles apart.

Cone Exchange, Sale, & Disposal

Olsen & Rollins

Question: What price do you ask for old cones after extraction?

Answer: Rollins -- Half a dollar per bushel for old cones as they come from the tumbler, bagged in two-bushel bags,

Question: Is there any moisture problems with the cones when stored on concrete floors?

Answer: We haven't experienced any problems yet. Wood floors would be preferred.

Comments: Bags, other than burlap, with larger holes (such as carrot bags) may provide more adequate ventilation might prove less expensive, if available.

Question: Shouldn't the burnable cones for ornamental flame be more perfect?

Comments: Rollins — Our buyer sorts his cones upon receipt and uses them for various things. We do no grading.

Comments: Belcher -- In Virginia, ground cones are used as an organic additive and mulch in the nursery and seed orchards.

Comments: Rollins -- Our sale of dried, extracted, red spruce cones covered the entire cost of our red spruce seed. The sale of dried red pine cones paid for the initial cost of tree ripened cones. The only cost to us was that of extraction and cleaning.

Comments: Olsen -- I suggest that someone look into the possibility of perhaps brokering surplus cones for the states involved with sales to various outlets.