

Potlatch Paper Company
Forest Tree Nursery and
Greenhouse Tour

It was a very hot day on August 3rd when we arrived at the Potlatch Nursery. We broke up into three groups headed by Richard Schantz-Hansen, Woodlands Operating Forester, Lee Hubbell, Nursery Superintendent, and Mike Fasteland, Nursery Technician.

The bare root nursery is approximately 14 acres in size and was started in 1955. We have an annual production of 1,100,000 seedlings. We are growing six species; Norway pine, jack pine, white spruce, black spruce, and some scotch pine and larch. Approximately 90% of the nursery production is in Norway pine. We transplant approximately 200,000 Norway a year. The 2-0 Norway pine for out planting is fall seeded, and the 3-0 Norway pine is spring seeded.

The weeding at the nursery is done with the use of chemicals (Goal 2E, Roundup, etc.), and by hand.

Portable aluminum irrigation pipe is used to transport water from the St. Louis River.

The container operation was started in 1977 with one greenhouse. Within two years, we grew to our present state of four gutter connected greenhouses, each 30' x 96' with an annual 2-crop production of 1,400,000 container seedlings.

The species grown in the container operation are: Norway pine, jack pine, white spruce, black spruce, scotch pine and larch. We use the styrofoam quarter block system. The seedlings are at the nursery for approximately 8 to 10 months before out planting.

The winter crop is seeded in October, stays in the greenhouses until mid-April, then is moved to the holding area where it will stay until early June. At that time it is scheduled for planting on Company land.

The summer crop is seeded in May, stays in the greenhouse until mid-August, then is moved to the holding area where it stays over the winter. It will be planted on Company land in early May.

Annual production of the bare root and container seedlings is 2 1/2 million. These trees are grown for Company use in northern Minnesota.

Potlatch owns approximately 249,000 acres of timberland in northern Minnesota. About 35,000 of these acres are plantations.