

REGULATING NURSERY SEEDBED DENSITIES

DEVELOPING SOWING PLANS

Joseph Hill

Abstract. This paper presents the steps used by the State of Pennsylvania to develop a sowing plan. It also discusses the processes used to maintain records and to calculate sowing rates. Several examples of records and forms are provided in the appendix.

We are quite fortunate in Pennsylvania to have our own seed testing laboratory, seed cleaning and storage facilities and a computerized inventory system. All of these facilities and aids, we feel, make it easier to plan for seedling production.

By cleaning and storing seed, we can take advantage of good seed crop years to collect and store seed for future use. The seed laboratory allows us to not only test for germination of newly received lots, but also to retest stored lots at a moderate cost per seed lot. This testing system often saves us many dollars by detecting the poorer lots for which we can revise sowing rates. We may also reject a lot being purchased commercially. Of course, a computerized inventory system provides (with little effort and at low cost) excellent information on the seedlings produced from a particular amount of viable seed sown.

Although some nurseries do not have the above facilities or aids available to them, seedling production planning can be accomplished if good records are kept on the amount of viable seed sown and the number of 1-0 gross seedlings produced.

Years ago (prior to 1976), we used curves and formulas to develop rates for sowing seed. Since we have been using the method described in this article, we have come closer to planned densities and have had fewer culls.

The following procedures and forms are used for planning and for handling seed. We have been using this record system since 1956, and find that it has been quite satisfactory. It often has made it possible to provide information useful in forest management, for insect and disease problems, and for tree improvement work in addition to nursery management.

The best way to present the development of a plan is to list the steps chronologically that must be met on schedule to permit the completed plan to be ready on time.

SOWING PLAN DEVELOPMENT

The development of a sowing plan for seedling production requires observations in the field, seed test information, data on past years' shipments, estimates of new production levels for various species, information on areas available for sowing at the nurseries, seedbed density counts, etc.

The example that follows shows the schedule used in the preparation of our 1982-83 sowing plans:

1. September '81 - Set up seed testing program.
2. Winter '81-'82 - Update viable seed/sq.ft.-density data (nursery survival factors) from information on inventory printouts of 1-0 stock.
3. Winter '81-'82 - Test seed. Have results of all tests available by July 15, 1982.
4. June '82 - Pit stratify white ash and tulip poplar.
5. July '82 - Nurserymen take seedbed density counts on 1-0's.
6. July-August '82 - Nurserymen submit areas available for Fall '82 and Spring '83 sowing.
7. Early August '82 - Develop production schedule for F'82-S'83 sowing (Appendix 1) based on:
 - a) Amounts of each species shipped from each nursery (prior year).
 - b) Total amounts of each species shipped prior year
Note: For both the above: also look at trends for last ten years.
 - c) Estimates of tree seedlings needed for mines, State forests, private market, and special projects (20 Fund, USFS, etc.).
 - d) Changes we wish to initiate (introduction of JP, GA, cut WP for western strip mine planting, etc.).
8. Compile notes from field observations at each nursery on seedling and seed performance that were taken over the previous growing season.
9. September 1 to 15 - Prepare sowing plans for F'82-S'83. (Using seed test results, seed on hand list, production plan, viable seed/density data, field observations and area available information from nurserymen). (Appendix 2, calculations 1, 2 and 3).

10. September 15 to October 1 - Preparation of final sowing plans for Fall '82 sowing at each nursery, and seed distribution list for the seedbank located at the Mont Alto Nursery.
11. January 15 to 31 - preparation of final sowing plans for Spring '83 sowing for each nursery and seed distribution list for the seedbank at Mont Alto Nursery. (Appendix 3).
12. June 1983 - prepare "Seeding in State Nurseries" final report table. (Appendix 4).

After the seed is sown at each nursery in either the fall or spring, each nurseryman completes a Daily Record of Seeding Form.* (Appendix 5). This form shows what was actually seeded at each nursery (amount and rates of seed, lineal feet, etc.). This report may vary from the original plan of seeding for a particular nursery for a number of reasons (the nurseryman may have used more or less footage for a particular seedlot than originally planned, etc.). Therefore, in constructing the report "Seeding in State Nurseries" only the Daily Record of Seeding Forms are used (original seeding plans are not used).

*After the Form has been completed by the nurseryman, a copy is submitted to the Nursery Supervisor's office in Harrisburg.

ACCESSORY FORMS

There are a number of special formats and printed forms needed to record standard information. Appendixes 6-11 present several forms used by the state of Pennsylvania.

PRODUCTION SCHEDULE FOR FALL '82-SPRING '83

Species	Total Seedlings	Seedlings Per Sq.Ft.	Greenwood		Mont Alto		Penn	
			No. Seedlings	Lin. Ft.	No. Seedlings	Lin. Ft.	No. Seedlings	Lin. Ft.
WP Imp.	250,000	25	50,000	500	125,000	1250	75,000	750
WP Reg.	900,000	25	190,000	1900	325,000	3250	385,000	3850
RP	1,250,000	25	320,000	3200	100,000	1000	830,000	8300
NS	600,000	25	100,000	1000	300,000	3000	200,000	2000
JL ² Imp.	75,000	25	0	0	0	0	75,000	750
JL ² Reg.	800,000	25	190,000	1900	0	0	610,000	6100
JL ¹ Imp.	100,000	20	0	0	100,000	1250	0	0
JL ¹ Reg.	250,000	20	100,000	1250	150,000	1875	0	0
AP	800,000	25	180,000	1800	200,000	2000	420,000	4200
EA ¹ Reg.	150,000	20	50,000	625	25,000	315	75,000	940
BL ¹	500,000	20	100,000	1250	125,000	1565	275,000	3435
VP ¹ Imp.	50,000	20	0	0	50,000	625	0	0
WS	500,000	25	100,000	1000	100,000	1000	300,000	3000
HP	110,000	--	110,000	--	--	--	--	--
TP	30,000	7	15,000	535	15,000	535	0	0
PB	40,000	20	0	0	10,000	120	30,000	375
EWB	40,000	20	0	0	10,000	120	30,000	375
RO	35,000	7	10,000	355	15,000	535	10,000	360
SM	20,000	7	5,000	180	10,000	355	5,000	180
WA	35,000	7	10,000	355	10,000	355	15,000	535
BW	30,000	7	10,000	355	20,000	715	0	0
BC Imp.	20,000	7	0	0	20,000	715	0	0
BC Reg.	10,000	7	0	0	0	0	10,000	360
Pitch X Lob.	30,000	20	0	0	30,000	375	0	0
Sycamore	5,000	20	5,000	60	0	0	0	0
Jap. Bl. Pine	5,600	20	5,600	70	0	0	0	0
AP X JRP	20,000	20	20,000	250	0	0	0	0
Green Ash	35,000	20	35,000	435	0	0	0	0
Jack Pine	38,500	20 25	20,000 18,500	250 185	0	0	0	0
Hemlock	<u>20,000</u>	25	<u>10,000</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Totals	6,749,100		1,654,100	17,555	1,750,000	21,055	3,345,000	35,510

Calculations

Red Pine

<u>Lot</u>	<u>Source</u>	<u>Lbs. On Hand</u>	<u>Seed/lb.</u>	<u>Germ. %</u>	<u>'81 Viable Seed Sown</u>			<u>1-0 Density Per Sq. Ft.</u>		
					<u>G</u>	<u>MA</u>	<u>P</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>MA</u>	<u>P</u>
675	Michigan	37 3/4	50,395	95	46 46	40 43	65 42	15 34	28 24	45 32
778	Dists. #9 & #14	127 1/4	48,082	83						
779	District #6	4 1/4	48,535	86	56	51	--	23	30	--
827	Western PA	3 1/2	43,455	90						
847	Mid. PA	20 3/4	46,085	81						
735	-----	--	43,047	95	--	--	50	--	--	28

Lineal Feet Needed

<u>G</u>	<u>MA</u>	<u>P</u>
3200	1000	8300

G = Greenwood Furnace Nursery

MA = Mount Alto Nursery

P = Penn Nursery

Calculations - page 2

Object: Use up small lots and lots with poorest germination first.

Lot 779, Red Pine (small lot) Greenwood Nursery

(Bagged seed/lb) (Germ.%)
48,535 X .86 = 41,740 Viable seed/lb.

Sow @ 55 viable/sq.ft.* = 220 viable/lin.ft.

(Viable seed/lb.) (lbs. in lot)
41,740 X 4.25 = 177,395 total viable seed/lot

Viable seed in lot = 177,395 = 805 lin. ft. (make to closest 5 foot unit)
Viable seed/lin.ft. 220

805 (tot.lin.ft.) = 32.2 Units
25 (lin.ft./100 sq.ft.)

4.25 lbs. in lot x 16 = 68 ozs. in lot

68 ozs. in lot = 2.1 ozs./unit
32.2 Units

* The viable seed/sq.ft. figure is based on the reports from previous years for the species (and seedlot when possible) of the viable seed sown compared to the gross 1-0 seedlings produced. These records are kept on a set of index cards (since 1976) in the Nursery Supervisor's Office, Harrisburg.

Calculations - page 3

Lot 675, Red Pine

Greenwood Nursery

3200 total feet needed

805 Lot 779

2395 Lot 675

$50,395 \times .95 = 47,875 \text{ v./lb.} = 2992 \text{ v./oz.}$

Sow @ 46 v./sq.ft. $\rightarrow \times 4 = 184 \text{ v./lin.ft.}$

$2395 \times 184 = \frac{440,680 \text{ v. seed needed}}{47,875 \text{ v. seed/lb.}} = 9.25 \text{ lbs. (to nearest one-quarter pound)}$

$\frac{2395 \text{ lin. ft. needed}}{25 \text{ lin.ft./unit}} = 95.8 \text{ Units}$

$9.25 \text{ lbs.} \times 16 = 148 \text{ ozs. to be used}$

$\frac{148 \text{ ozs.}}{95.8 \text{ units}} = 1.5 \text{ ozs./unit}$

Lot 675, Red Pine

Penn Nursery

Need 8300 feet

37.75 lbs. in lot initially

9.25 lbs. used for Greenwood

28.50 lbs. left to use at Penn

25.75 lbs. used for Penn

Therefore, 2.75 lbs. left to use toward Mont Alto footage.

Plus: used lot 778 (1 lb.) at Mont Alto to finish red pine sowing

Sowing Plan - Spring 1983 - Penn Nursery

<u>Species</u>	<u>Lot No.</u>	<u>Bagged Seed/lb.</u>	<u>Germ. %</u>	<u>Est. Trees Per Lin.ft.</u>	<u>Estimated Production</u>	<u>Viable Seed /sq.ft.</u>	<u>Seeding Rate oz./100 sq. ft.</u>	<u>Lineal Feet</u>	<u>Amount of Seed (lbs.)</u>
Norway Spruce	171	64,365	59	25	100,000	65	2.7	1,000	6.75
Norway Spruce	206	62,143	72	25	100,000	42	1.5	1,000	3.75
Japanese Larch	678	107,390	56	25	263,000	80	2.1	2,630	14.00
Japanese Larch	821	111,833	47	25	347,000	76	2.3	3,470	20.00
Japanese Larch	PS0711B	89,722	56	25	75,000	71	2.3	750	4.25
Austrian Pine	795	22,453	86	25	92,500	47	3.9	925	9.00
Austrian Pine	798B	23,542	91	25	327,500	47	3.5	3,275	28.75
E. Black Alder	324A	277,418	44	20	75,000	95	1.3	940	3.00
Black Locust	258	21,797	44	20	275,000	32	5.3	3,435	45.75
Paper Birch	273	2,615,004	10	20	30,000	114	0.7	375	11.00
E. White Birch	280	1,068,682	23	20	30,000	69	0.5	<u>375</u>	<u>6.80</u>
TOTALS								18,175	135.25
									+ 17.80

SEED DISTRIBUTION LIST
Spring 1983

<u>Species</u>	<u>Lot No.</u>	<u>No. of Pounds (except where noted)</u>			<u>Total</u>
		<u>Greenwood</u>	<u>Mont Alto</u>	<u>Penn</u>	
Norway Spruce	104	2.75	9.25		12.00
Norway Spruce	171	4.50	9.00	6.75	20.25
Norway Spruce	206			3.75	3.75
Japanese Larch	678	6.25		14.00	20.25
Japanese Larch	821	6.75		20.00	26.75
Japanese Larch	PS0711B			4.25	4.25
Austrian Pine	795	4.00	4.00	9.00	17.00
Austrian Pine	798B	11.75	11.50	28.75	52.00
E. Black Alder	324A	2.00		3.00	5.00
E. Black Alder	843		6.00 ozs.		6.00
Black Alder	844		3.30 ozs.		3.30
Black Locust	258	15.50	21.00	45.75	82.25
Paper Birch	273		1.20 ozs.	11.00 ozs.	12.20
E. White Birch	280		0.90 ozs.	6.80 ozs.	7.70
Sycamore	274	9.25 ozs.			9.25
Green Ash	876	2.25			2.25
Jack Pine	78	0.50			0.50
Speckled Alder	710	3.00 ozs.			3.00
Scotch Pine	869	_____	2.40 ozs.	_____	2.40
Totals		56.25 +12.25 ozs.	54.75 +13.80 ozs.	135.25 +17.80 ozs.	246.25 +43.85

DAILY RECORD OF SEEDING
PENNSYLVANIA STATE FOREST TREE NURSERIES

Nursery Penn

Season Spring Year 1983

Date	Species	Lot No.	Block & Section	Beds	Lineal Feet	Seeding Rate Oz./ 100 ft. ²	Pounds Sown	Seeding Method/Cover
5/26	NS	171	J-4	1,2 3E	780 315 1095	2.46	6.75	Drill sown on soil surface, covered with ½" S&S & hydr mulch.
5/26	NS	206	J-4	6,7 5W	780 220 1000	1.5	3.75	"
5/27	PB	273	I-3	1 2E	280 95 375	.73	11.00 oz	Broadcast by h. covered by nee & Hydromulch
5/27	EWB	280	I-3	7 6W	280 95 375	.45	6.80 oz	"
5/27	EBA	324A	I-3	3W 4,5 6E	195 560 185 940	1.28	3.00	"
5/26	AP	795	J-4 K-1	3W 4 5E 1E 2E	75 390 170 170 260 1065	3.30	8.81	Drill sown on s surface, covere with ½" S&S
6/8	AP	798B	H-1 B-4	1-3 1-6	810 1950			
6/15			K-1 A-5	2W 5-8	190 560 3510	3.28	28.75	"

DAILY RECORD OF SEEDING
PENNSYLVANIA STATE FOREST TREE NURSERIES

Nursery _____ Penn _____

Season Spring Year 1983

Date	Species	Lot No.	Block & Section	Beds	Lineal Feet	Seeding Rate Oz.	Pounds Sown	Seeding Method
6/15	BL	258	F-4	1W	115	5.06	45.75	Drill sown or soil surface, covered with ½" S&S.
				2	415			
				3W	93			
				4M	65			
			H-8	1-7	2100			
				I-3	2W			
			A-5		3E			
				1-4	560			
					3618			
6/17	JL	678	J-3	1-7	2625	2.13	14.00	Drill sown on soil surface, covered with needles & hydromulch.
6/16	JL	821	H-5	1-6	1704	2.30	20.00	"
				H-7	1-6			
6/16	JL Imp.	PSO 711B	H-7	7	295	2.19	4.25	"
				B-2	5E			
			6E		160			
			7E		160			
TOTAL LINEAL FEET					18,852			

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources
Bureau of Forestry

Appendix
Example
1

SEED AND CONE COLLECTION

Species (common name) Red PINE Forest District # 9
Date collected 10/16/82 Collector's Name Walter Scipione
Location: County Cleasfield Township Moore
Stand Data:
Natural or Planted Natural Trees Standing or Cut Standing
Approximate Elevation 800' Date Cut —
Approximate Stand Age 50
Bushels Enclosed 73

Notes _____



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

Date 10/25/82

NURSERY Penn

received 73 bushels of Red Pine (cones) ~~fruit~~

collected from Clearfield county, Pennsylvania by:

(Name and Address of Collector):

Walter Scipione
RDI
Woodland, PA. 16100

John Jones Forester District 9
Signature of Department employee

Walter Scipione
Signature of Collector or
his representative

SEED TEST NO. 1940DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES
BUREAU OF FORESTRY

SEED INFORMATION AND TEST SHEET

Species Red Pine Pinus resinosa
 Common Name Scientific Name Variety or Strain
 Lot Number 897 Total lbs. in Lot 24th 4g.
 Received from Penn Nursery Date Received January 13, 1983
 Sender's Lot No., etc. Origin of Seed
 Place Collected USA Pennsylvania Clearfield County
 Country State or Province Locality
 Collected By Walter Scipione Date Fall 1982 Altitude 800'
 How Collected: Standing Trees Felled Trees _____ Date Felled _____
 Ground _____ Squirrel Cache _____
 Total Cones in Lot 73 bushels (bushels or pounds)
 Yield: 5.32 g/bu.
 Remarks concerning collection, processing, damage, etc. _____

SUMMARY OF TEST

Is the seed true to name? Yes
 Container No. (s) _____
 Moisture Content 7.2% % _____ % _____ % _____ %
 Purity 98.8% % _____ % _____ % _____ %
 Bagged Seed/lb. 51,138
 Clean Seed/lb. 52,063
 Total Germination 92.50 % _____ % _____ % _____ %
 (In 28 days)
 Hard Seed 0 % _____ % _____ % _____ %
 Hollow Seed 2.25 % _____ % _____ % _____ %

Used for calculations:

Weight of sample 5.00 grams Number of seed in sample 567
 Weight of clean seed 94 grams
 Weight of impurities 1.14 grams

Remarks on condition of seed during testing _____

Date Reported 03/08/83 To JAH Test Made By N. Kirch

Species Red PineLot Number 897Test Number 1940Container Number D 21

Stratification: Date started: _____ Date ended: _____ Total Days: _____
 In germinator: Date started: 2/9/83 Date ended: 3/8/83 Total Days: 27

No. of seed						
Days	A	B	C	D	Total	Cum. average
7	36	38	45	42	161	40.25
14	52	48	45	48	193	88.50
21	3	5	3	5	16	92.50
28	0	0	0	0	0	92.50
35						
TOTAL	91	91	93	95	370	92.50
HARD SEED	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
HOLLOW SEED	3	2	1	3	9	2.25

Container Number _____

Stratification: Date started: _____ Date ended: _____ Total days: _____
 In germinator: Date started: _____ Date ended: _____ Total days: _____

No. of seed						
Days	A	B	C	D	Total	Cum. average
7						
14						
21						
28						
35						
TOTAL						
HARD SEED						
HOLLOW SEED						

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
 Department of Environmental Resources
 Bureau of Forestry

SEED LOT RECORD

Seed Lot Number 897 Species Red Pine Pounds in Lot 27⁷ 4²¹
 Seed Received from Penn Nursery Date Received January 13, 1993
 Received as: Cones 730 lbs Seed _____ Fruit _____ Other _____
 Senders Marks: Lot Number, Order Number, etc. _____
 Source: as stated by Dealer or Collector _____
 Collected by Walter Scigione Date Collected Full 1952
 Place Collected USA Pennsylvania Clearfield County
 Purity: 98.8% No. Clean Seed/lb. 52,063 No. Bagged Seed/lb. 51,435
 Moisture Content % 7.2 Date _____
 Yield 5.32 g/ha
 GERMINATION TESTS:

Date	Test Number	Germination %	Stratified No. of Days
<u>3/8/83</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>92.50</u>	<u>0</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

EXTRACTION AND STORAGE:

Cone Storage _____ Place Extracted _____ Date Extracted _____
 Date Seed Stored _____ Place Stored _____ Container No. _____
 Temp. in Storage _____ F Remarks _____

Nursery	Bed Location	No. Beds	Date Sown	Seeding Rate Oz.	Lineal Feet	Lifting Count
1.						
2.						
3.						
4.						
5.						
6.						
7.						
8.						
9.						
10.						
11.						
12.						
13.						
14.						
15.						

