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Raising Native Plants in Nurseries: Basic Concepts

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Abstract

Growing native plants can be fun, challenging, and rewarding. This booklet, particularly the first chapter that introduces important concepts, is for the novice who wants to start growing native plants as a hobby; however, it can also be helpful to someone with a bit more experience who is wondering about starting a nursery. The second chapter provides basic information about collecting, processing, storing, and treating seeds. Chapter three focuses on using seeds to grow plants in the field or in containers using simple but effective techniques. For those native plants that reproduce poorly from seeds, the fourth chapter describes how to start native plants from cuttings. The final chapter provides valuable information on how to successfully move native plants from the nursery and establish them in their final planting location. Several appendices expand on what has been presented in the chapters, with more details and specific information about growing a variety of native plants.

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This General Technical Report is intended to supersede *Raising Forest Tree Seedlings at Home: Simple Methods for Growing Conifers of the Pacific Northwest From Seeds*, written by R.K. Dumroese, T.D. Landis, and D.L. Wenny in 1998 as Idaho Forest, Wildlife, and Range Experiment Station Contribution Number 860. We thank Randy Moench, Colorado State Forest Service, and Jim Borland, Denver Botanic Garden, for their thoughtful reviews of earlier drafts, and Jim Marin for graphic design and initial layout. To enhance this publication's national impact, George Hernández graciously provided information for eastern species found in Appendix 6.1. We also thank the staff of Publishing Services at the Rocky Mountain Research Station. Funding was provided by the National Center for Reforestation, Nurseries, and Genetic Resources and the Rocky Mountain Research Station.

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Trade names are used for the information and convenience of the reader and do not imply endorsement or preferential treatment by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Nomenclature for scientific names follows the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service PLANTS (Plant List of Accepted Nomenclature, Taxonomy, and Symbols) database (2011) at <http://plants.usda.gov>.

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