

# Letter from the Editor

Dear TPN Reader,

This is my first issue of TPN that I helped shepherd from review to publication as editor. Over the past year, it has been a privilege to work with authors featured in this issue and the Forest Service's Reforestation, Nurseries, and Genetic Resources (RNNGR) team. As Diane shared in last issue's "Letter from the Editor," my degree is forestry but with a focus on forest management. Through my work as editor, I am learning more about the art and science of growing and planting all manner of shrubs and trees.

I intend to continue Diane's editorial philosophy over the course of future issues, welcoming all articles and working with authors to create a manuscript worthy of publication. One point that I will build upon is including an article relevant to each of the RNNGR disciplines: tropical nursery, urban forestry, pest management, nursery production, etc. I want to ensure that all practitioners can learn information that is relevant to their work.

In the fall 2024 issue of TPN, many of the articles offer practical guidance that practitioners may find useful. Heitzman shares an update how black walnut that he planted 30 years ago is faring in Vermont while Kennedy reports on cold hardiness of big sagebrush seedlings, which will be useful to nurseries growing this plant for restoration projects. Witcraft, Mackey, and Khadduri describe an inexpensive method for improving the sowing of conifer and hardwood seeds with colorization, which has translated into tangible productivity at the Franklin H. Pitkin Forest Nursery and Webster Forest Nursery. Khadduri and Wightman share an analysis of paper-wrapped plugs in Pacific Northwest reforestation, and lastly, Pike et al. report on annual seedling production in the United States.



Here's to a productive 2025!

Andrea Watts

Tree Planters' Notes (TPN) is published by the Forest Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The purpose of Tree Planters' Notes is to benefit the nursery community by sharing information and raising awareness of issues related to nursery production and outplanting of trees, shrubs, and native plants for reforestation, conservation, and restoration.

TPN welcomes unsolicited manuscripts from readers on any subject related to nursery production. For editorial questions or to contribute an article, contact Editor Andrea Watts at [andrea.watts@rngr.net](mailto:andrea.watts@rngr.net). Tree Planters' Notes is available online (<https://rngr.net/publications/tpn>).

TPN accepts both technical and research articles; each is reviewed by the editor. Please see the guidelines for authors for details about editorial policy, formatting, style, and submission ([www.rngr.net/publications/tpn/author\\_guidelines](http://www.rngr.net/publications/tpn/author_guidelines)).

*And the new plants, still awkward in their soil,  
The lovely diminutives.  
I could watch! I could watch!  
I saw the separateness of all things.*

—Theodore Roethke