

USDA Forest Service, Forest Health Protection Resistance Screening Center

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The Resistance Screening Center evaluates seedling materials for resistance to disease, primarily fusiform rust (*Cronartium quercuum* F. sp. *fusiforme*) and pitch canker (*Fusarium circinatum*), as a service to tree improvement specialists, seed orchard managers, scientists, and others in government agencies, research institutions, and private industry. Testing enables clients to obtain information on the relative resistance of materials in much less time than is possible in field progeny tests. Plant material is screened using protocols developed specifically for use at the screening center, utilizing native sources of inoculum. By using information from these tests, trees producing disease resistant progeny are identified. The Forest Service has an alternate interest in screening the material submitted for disease resistance to the Resistance Screening Center. The use of resistant materials on private land can reduce the base from which these diseases might spread to Federal, State, or other private land.