



# Phipps Pflyer

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## **NURSERY UPDATE**

The latest information on the status of Phipps Nursery came on January 5, when the Board of Forestry accepted the recommendations by the Departments Task Force to lease the Nursery to a private interest and create a private growers cooperative. The co-op would resume the responsibility of growing speculative seedling supplies for the farm forest land owners. This does not come without a cautious approach from the task force. It is essential to have a high level of confidence in the details that would make the proposal work, before they would give their full endorsement.

On January 6, the Legislative Emergency Board accepted the Task Force report. With respect to seedling growing and sales at Phipps, it business as usual. We will continue to take orders and grow seedlings as always. The State will continue to honor all present and future contracts. All our customers will be kept informed as ODF and stakeholders work through the details and issues, as directed by the Board of Forestry.

## **CROP NEWS**

The fall transplants are doing very well. Mortality of the crop is less than 2% overall. Great care was taken to prepare the field for winter rains, by improving drainage to existing ditches. Disease during the winter months is always a concern. We continue to monitor and apply fungicides to help ward off any problems.

The new irrigation system is near completion. The new pumps, underground mainlines and electrical was completed by the first week in January. The final phase - installing the intake lines in the river will be completed in time for fall 2005 planting.

The new mainlines were installed in time for the fall frost irrigation in November. With the size of the crop and the system in the midst of installation, we rented two large capacity diesel operated pumps, to help boost our old system. This allowed us to protect all vital crops that are susceptible to frost damage. This proved to be the ticket for the nights of November 4 and 5, with temperatures dipped below freezing. The new system will have the capabilities of protecting 100+ acres. The Nursery is currently growing seedlings on 75 acres.

## **HARVEST**

This year's crop is one of Phipps best. The average caliper and root mass surpasses previous crops. After two winters with frost problems, we took great pains from the beginning of spring, to culture and condition the seedlings to endure the coming fall and winter.

We are well within another harvest season. The weather has been favorable for lifting and packing. We are 40% of completion and on time with orders filled. Rainfall was below normal in December, with 6.88" and so far not much in the way of precipitation for January with only 2.48" to date. However, with the snowfall and freezing levels being low this past couple of weeks, several customers have delayed having their orders lifted and packed until they are able to get back out to plant.

83% of the seedlings are sold so far. Most 2+0 stock is sold. We do have some 1+1 stock available. We have been experiencing over-runs of 1+1 stock at time of pack and are able to fill most back orders. So we are still taking orders and encouraging customers to place orders. Some areas where we have approximately 200,000 seedlings left are in the Josephine/Jackson County areas; mainly Ponderosa and Jeffrey pine. Also, we have available 11,000 Ponderosa pine for Klamath/Lake area and 50,000 for the Northeastern Oregon area.

The goal of Phipps Nursery is to provide healthy high quality seedlings. That is our top priority. The staff is dedicated to providing the service needed to help land owners select the proper seedling stock needed for their site, to ensure healthy reforestation of Oregon's forestlands.

## **Phipps Nursery stand by the following principles:**

- Be open and honest with customers
- Maintain a high a level of trust with customers
- Do not risk a customer planting trees that may not survive
- In the event of problems with seedlings, try to minimize the impact on customer to the extent we are able