

United States Department of Agriculture National Reforestation, Nurseries, and Genetic Resources Program

J.W. Toumey Nursery: The Future Grows Here

in Watersmeet, MI, is the last Forest Service nursery east of the Mississippi River that supplies a full range of services to national forests. The nursery was established in 1935 to meet reforestation needs in the national forests of Michigan's Upper Peninsula and northern Wisconsin.

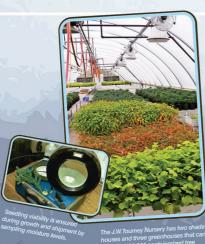
Tree Improvement Programs To maintain seed resources for the future, the nursery and the Oconto River Seed Orchard established a grafting program for superior and disease-resistant trees.



Nature works with the nursery providing excellent growing conditions, including sandy soils and deep, insulating snow cover. At full capacity, the nursery can produce 8 million bareroot seedlings on 68 agencies.

Seed Services

The nursery is home to the Eastern Region seedbank and essential to seed management. Seed collected from forests and orchards is cleaned, stored, and tracked in a database. The seed is used to grow locally-adapted seedlings.



Restoration Assistance

The nursery plays a key role in regional restoration efforts by supplying bareroot and containerized seedlings for research, wildlife plantings, and erosion control. Trees, shrubs, and native plants are grown based on national forest plans.



The nursery grows and receives a variety of high-quality seed from different sources, such as this smooth oxeye. Seed must be extracted, cleaned, dried, sources, such as the manner that ensures viability.

Gonservation Education

Nursery employees share their expertise through workshops and educational tours.

On request, seedlings are provided to help

promote conservation education.



Welsoming shallenges...

For the past two decades, the traditional role of Forest Service nurseries has grown to include providing native plant species that meet the needs of ecosystem restoration.

These species present propagation challenges to nursery staff.
The J.W. Tourney Nursery thrives on innovation.
We welcome your challenges—large or small.



ing with just a handful of fruits, the nursery produced seedlings to nee butterfly habitat in the Ottawa National Forest. The threatened sem blue butterfly only lays its eggs on dwarf bilberry plants.

The nursery is helping to develop an active recovery program for vulnerable species, such as this douglas hawthome.

Changing environment...

The climate change predicted in the Eastern Region may affect the distribution of many plant and tree species. As these unknown changes occur, skills and knowledge will be needed to provide the best quality seed and seedlings.

The J.W. Tourney Nursery is preparing for these challenges by:

- ♥ Providing seeds from seed zones that are adapted to local needs
- W Working with disease-resistant seedlings and plants
- W Propagating native species for restoring habitats
- W Developing staff skills and knowledge to meet changing conditions



Hed oaks grown at the nursery provide diversity and support healthy forests the are more likely to their

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