

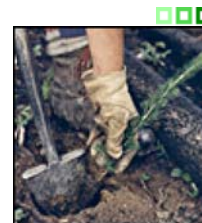


**In our news today:**

- **Spring has Sprung at PRT**  
Spring has sprung and it is almost time for this year's crop of spring seedlings to go out for planting. And just like when you bring a new baby home from the hospital nursery, these little trees require a little bit of special care.
- **Reporter – Industry Update**  
What a difference a year makes! In 2010, forest seedling nurseries struggled with the lowest demand we have seen in many years, but 2011 has shown significant improvement. Particularly in Western Canada and the Pacific Northwest, where harvesting and lumber processing have picked up in response to growing Asian demand for wood products.
- **PRT Cranberries Make the Grade at Rutgers University**  
The PRT cranberry program continues to grow and prosper. At the end of 2010, Rutgers University in New Jersey made PRT a licensed propagator of their cranberry varieties, creating the opportunity for PRT to supply growers in western North America.
- **Solo Safety: PRT Workers May Be On Their Own, But Never Alone**  
The phone rings in the middle of the night. A PRT employee takes the alarm call and crawls out of a warm bed to see why a furnace has malfunctioned at the nursery – a potential disaster for delicate plants. As the employee heads out into the cold night alone, what does he or she need to do to make sure they are safe?
- **PRT Seedlings Standing Tall in Stanley Park**  
Year after year, Vancouver is voted the most livable city in the world and at the heart of the city is Stanley Park. Stanley Park is one of the largest urban parks in the world – 10% larger than New York's Central Park – and it is loved and enjoyed by residents and visitors alike. In the winter of 2006, tragedy struck. Vancouver was hit by a devastating windstorm and as many as 10,000 of the park's trees were destroyed in a single night.

**SPRING HAS SPRUNG AT PRT**

Spring has sprung and it is almost time for this year's crop of spring seedlings to go out for planting. And just like when you bring a new baby home from the hospital nursery, these little trees require a little bit of special care.



**THAWING TAKES SOME THOUGHT**

Some of the seedlings being shipped out will still be frozen. When these seedlings are being thawed, they are especially vulnerable and need to be protected from stresses such as extreme temperatures, moisture loss, and physical damage.

If the seedlings are going to be thawed outside, they should never be left in direct sunlight. This can cause the cartons to heat up too quickly and place a lot of stress on the seedlings. They should be thawed in the shade, preferably on the north side of a building, and covered by an elevated reflective tarp or under a canopy of trees.

Thawing should also be done with the cartons closed to maintain humidity around the seedlings, unless the temperature inside the carton rises to above 10°C, then the cartons should be opened.

### **READY TO PLANT**

The majority of PRT seedlings are shipped already thawed. It takes about five days to slowly thaw so let us know well in advance of the delivery date and we can have them ready for planting as soon as they arrive. When these babies arrive, they still need some TLC. Upon arrival, the cartons and liners should be opened and folded back and kept in the shade and kept cool. This will reduce any temperature and moisture stress on the seedlings. Ideally they should be planted within a couple of days of thawing

All seedlings have been watered thoroughly prior to shipping and they shouldn't be permitted to dry out before being planted. The root plugs shouldn't be exposed to air as our babies roots are very sensitive to exposure and drying out will damage or kill them. Keep them wrapped right up until planting. If they are going to be in planting bags for long periods of time, some absorbent material such as moist paper towel or newspaper can help keep the plugs moist.

### **INTO THE GROUND**

When actually planting the plugs, the planting holes must be deep enough to accommodate the entire plug, with the top of the soil plug even with or slightly below the surrounding soil. Avoid bending the plug and tamp the soil lightly around the planted plug without applying too much pressure. Just like tucking in a baby!

For more information, visit the PRT website for thawing and planting guidelines at [Thawing and Planting Guidelines](#).



### **REPORTER – INDUSTRY UPDATE**

What a difference a year makes! In 2010, forest seedling nurseries struggled with the lowest demand we have seen in many years, but 2011 has shown significant improvement. Particularly in Western Canada and the Pacific Northwest, where harvesting and lumber processing have picked up in response to growing Asian demand for wood products.

Forest seedling nurseries generally lag forest industry activity by about a year, so we're pleased to see the continued success our customers are having in diversifying and growing their markets, and we look forward to helping customers meet their expanding reforestation needs in 2011 and beyond.

Based on current conditions, nursery space could be quite tight in 2012. We are working hard to meet this challenge by maximizing the efficiency and utilization of the existing capacity within our nursery network, without impacting the reliability our customers count on. For example, by carefully reviewing oversows we can reduce overrun production and free up more space for other orders, while saving on seed use.

We can also optimize block layout, multi crop through greenhouses, and use mini-plug transplanting equipment to maximize germination capacity of greenhouse facilities. Waste reduction, continuous improvement and innovation are cornerstones of our lean approach to improving value to customers, and PRT employees are working together to meet the new challenges and opportunities we will face as the industry recovers.

### **PRT CRANBERRIES MAKE THE GRADE AT RUTGERS UNIVERSITY**

The PRT cranberry program continues to grow and prosper. At the end of 2010, Rutgers University in New Jersey made PRT a licensed



propagator of their cranberry varieties, creating the opportunity for PRT to supply growers in western North America.

The news of our success has spread quickly. Cranberry growers in BC, Washington State and elsewhere are showing considerable interest in using our services to quickly and cost-effectively establish production with new varieties and it is really paying off for PRT.

"Expanding our growing services helps us achieve higher utilization of our facilities and allows us to learn new growing techniques," says Herb Markgraf Vice President of Marketing. "We're optimistic about this new crop and will be exploring other opportunities in the areas where we operate."



## **SOLO SAFETY: PRT WORKERS MAY BE ON THEIR OWN, BUT NEVER ALONE**

The phone rings in the middle of the night. A PRT employee takes the alarm call and crawls out of a warm bed to see why a furnace has malfunctioned at the nursery – a potential disaster for delicate plants. As the employee heads out into the cold night alone, what does he or she need to do to make sure they are safe?

Patrick Graveley is the Nursery Manager at PRT Beaverlodge, and until recently, he was also the PRT Safety Coordinator. It has been his job to make sure that PRT employees know exactly what to do when they are working alone. Patrick has thought a lot about the things that could happen to an employee who ends up in a solo situation and has helped develop a good list of guidelines for employees.

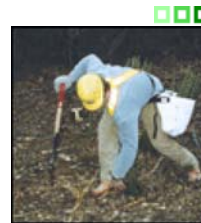
"We try to think of everything that could possibly happen," says Patrick. "For instance, if a PRT employee responds to an alarm call at night, they don't disable the alarm completely when they arrive. Instead they put it on a short delay. That way, if someone falls down and hurts themselves and don't go back to turn off the alarm, the next person on the call-out list will get the alarm call."

A lot of it comes down to common sense. If someone is working alone, they use a "buddy" system where a staff or family member checks in regularly to ensure all is well. In addition, employees avoid any work involving ladders or working at significant heights. If they absolutely have to, they will call someone in to help them or maintain cell phone contact with a supervisor.

In some areas, cell phone coverage can be patchy, so PRT site managers are given the option of providing workers with satellite phones or even GPS distress beacons. These devices are relatively inexpensive and would allow for a worker in a remote location to send out a distress call that will be picked up by a satellite and transferred to a central dispatch.

"The bottom line is that we ask employees to not put themselves at unnecessary risk," says Patrick. "We work to make sure that everyone knows the policy and managers of a "buddy" employee always touch base at the end of a shift to ensure that workers that are by themselves make it home safe and sound."

For more information about PRT's safety policies, contact the new PRT Safety Coordinator, Elizabeth Brown, the Nursery Manager at PRT Coldstream - [elizabeth.brown@prt.com](mailto:elizabeth.brown@prt.com).



## **PRT SEEDLINGS STANDING TALL IN STANLEY PARK**

Year after year, Vancouver is voted the most livable city in the world and at the heart of the city is Stanley Park. Stanley Park is one of the largest urban parks in the world – 10% larger than New York’s Central Park – and it is loved and enjoyed by residents and visitors alike. In the winter of 2006, tragedy struck. Vancouver was hit by a devastating windstorm and as many as 10,000 of the park’s trees were destroyed in a single night.



PRT immediately stepped in to offer their support for the reforestation of the park by providing 16,000 seedlings – 8,000 Western Red Cedars and 8,000 coastal Douglas Firs. PRT teamed up with Brinkman and Associates and the seedlings were planted in the spring of 2008. These tiny trees are doing very well.



“We are really pleased with how the seedlings have grown,” says Vancouver Park Board arborist Bill Stephen. “A recent field survey showed a survival rate of over 95% for the PRT seedlings. And the seedlings have actually grown more quickly than some larger containerized trees that were planted at the same time. I am really impressed. We will definitely look at using PRT seedlings for future reforestation projects.”

PRT’s Ron Jacobson has been keeping a close eye on the baby trees. [Click here](#) to see Ron’s YouTube video to see how these trees have grown (or copy and past this link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IPuS1dL6PaE>.)

Jacobson also oversees the PRT Promo program that offers a number of environmentally friendly products that are ideal for promoting your company. These include:

- Global Seedlings - premium conifer seedlings packaged in clear biodegradable bags or tubes
- FlowerBallz – clay balls containing a variety of 20-30 different wildflower seeds that will flower when waters and exposed to sunshine (only available in the US)
- Lucky Bamboo – in a biodegradable bag or glass vase
- “Grow Your Own” – packages of seeds for herbs and veggies – 3 different untreated seed types in re-sealable bags.

Some big names have used PRT Promo products to promote their products including Kraft Foods, CitiBank and Canadian Pacific. For more information about how PRT Promo can work for your company, please contact Ron Jacobson at 604 341 9220.

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