



In our news today:

- **PRT Hybrid – Small Site, Big Production**
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- **PRT Working Hard at Hardwoods**
While PRT predominantly produces conifer seedlings, we have also been working hard for the past ten years to meet the needs of those customers who require hardwood seedlings.
- **PRT Update: Containers are Catching On!**
Last year, PRT launched the Bareroot Replacement Program to help our customers make the switch to containerized seedlings and it looks like the advantages of containers are catching on!
- **Ordering and planting timeline**

PRT HYBRID – SMALL SITE, BIG PRODUCTION

PRT Hybrid may not be the biggest member of the PRT family, but they are mighty in terms of production. This 32-acre nursery is located 45 minutes east of Vancouver in Pitt Meadows, British Columbia. Situated on the north side of the Fraser River, the nursery is close to major transportation services with easy access to the US Border.

PRT Hybrid makes the most of their 32 acres. The majority of the site is in active production, so - despite being smaller than other sites - it is the 4th largest site in terms of block capacity and has an annual production of up to 14 million container seedlings.

PRT Hybrid has 3 large open compound areas and 9 greenhouses. This allows PRT Hybrid to offer a full range of seedlings, with the greenhouses accounting for 45% of the nursery capacity. Extensive irrigation upgrades within a number of the greenhouses over the past two years have resulted in improvements in crop management and reliability.

PRT Hybrid supplies crops all across North America, but they specialize in the following areas:

- 1+0 Seedlings for Summer, Fall and Spring Planting – PRT Hybrid’s custom growing programs allow them to provide well-conditioned seedlings for all planting seasons.
- 2+0 Container Seedlings – The maritime climate of PRT Hybrid makes for an excellent environment for the production of 2+0 container seedlings because of the minimal risk of root injury during the winter. These well-conditioned, robust and well-balanced plants provide high value, especially for sites that are subject to vegetative competition or snow press.



- Large Seedlings – PRT Hybrid produces these large seedlings for coastal sites with brush and animal problems. These seedlings are generally produced as 1+0 container seedlings which are grown in large containers of up to 1,000 ml (61 cu in).
- Somatic Embryogenesis and cuttings – PRT Hybrid specializes in producing seedlings from genetic material rather than seed.

In addition to producing seedlings, PRT Hybrid is the home of the PRT software development team. This team has developed a "Toolkit" that provides all of PRT's operation team with software applications for Request Management, Seed Tracking, Sow Scheduling, Crop Measurement, Crop Inventory and Productivity Tracking. These high-tech information systems mean that the entire PRT team has fast access to information when they need it and data can be shared across all the PRT sites.

PRT Hybrid has some stellar leadership, too. Nursery Manager John Lukasek's global experience in site management makes a valuable contribution to the operation. Heading up the grow team at PRT Hybrid is Fernando Rey, Crop Production Manager. With over 23 years of experience in silviculture, we estimate that Fernando has been responsible for the production of over 1 billion seedlings in the course of his career. Recently, he demonstrated his flexibility and the versatility of the nursery by successfully producing over one million cranberry plants for a local customer.

For more information about PRT Hybrid, please contact Marilyn Curtis, RPF, Customer Support Representative at 250 733 2051 or via e-mail: marilyn.curtis@prt.com.

PRT WORKING HARD AT HARDWOODS

While PRT predominantly produces conifer seedlings, we have also been working hard for the past ten years to meet the needs of those customers who require hardwood seedlings.

PRT Prince Albert has been planting 2-hectare demonstration plantations of hybrid poplar every year since 2000. The plantations allow PRT staff to gain experience in the maintenance and propagation of hardwoods and they are also able to provide containerized hardwoods – poplar and willow.

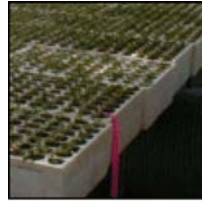
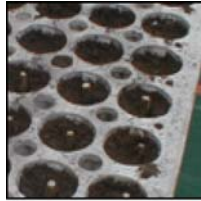
In 2001, PRT developed stool beds of hybrid poplar. These plants are cut back to the ground each year and the whips are harvested. New trees are grown from the cuttings and PRT can then supply customers with containerized hardwoods.

PRT grows several varieties of hybrid poplar, but growing seedlings from cuttings ensures that all the trees produced are genetically identical. Some are destined to reforest hardwood harvesting areas, but most of the seedlings are used for remedial sites as part of an overall program of reforestation.

PRT Prince Albert in Saskatchewan is the main centre for the hardwoods program, although PRT Beaverlodge in Alberta also grows containerized hybrid poplar and aspen from seed. Most hardwoods are supplied as containerized seedlings (12-24" tall), but unrooted cuttings (8-12") can also be provided where planting conditions permit their use.

For more information about the PRT Hardwoods program, contact Grant Harrison at PRT Prince Albert at 306 953 4700 Ext. 31.





PRT UPDATE: CONTAINERS ARE CATCHING ON!

Last year, PRT launched the Bareroot Replacement Program to help our customers make the switch to containerized seedlings and it looks like the advantages of containers are catching on!

In 2009, the first crop through the program was approximately 150,000 seedlings. This year, PRT orders for this product are close to 500,000 seedlings and 2011 orders have already exceed this volume with additional orders anticipated.

“Customers are recognizing the advantages of containers,” says Tom Harvie, the PRT Customer Support Representative for the Pacific Northwest. “We have had a lot of success growing these crops as a two-year old container seedling. They are the very similar in size as the bareroot products, but they take less time to produce and the planning horizons are much shorter.”

The program primarily produces Douglas Fir, but Western Red Cedar and Western Hemlock are being added. The seeds are planted into mini plug containers and then transferred into bigger containers. The seedlings are overwintered in greenhouses and then they are ready for shipment later in the fall of year two or the following spring.

Container growing significantly improves seed usage. Single sowing means that every germinated seed is used and there is no thinning required. Also, customers can order seedlings later in the cycle. There is no need to plan two years in advance!

The PRT Bareroot Program is now in its third year. It is based out of the PRT nursery in Oregon and primarily provides product to customers in Oregon, Eastern Washington and Idaho.

For more information about the PRT Bareroot Program, please contact Tom Harvie at 250 287 0366.



ORDERING AND PLANTING TIMELINE



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