



rePoRTER



In our news today:

- **SPRING INTO ACTION: TIPS TO GIVE YOUR SPRING SEEDLINGS THE VERY BEST START**

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- **SPOTLIGHT ON PRT BEAVERLODGE**

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- **PRESIDENTS SAFETY AWARD**

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- **BC FORESTRY FACTS**

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Spring is an exciting time of year - a time of renewal for many of nature's cycles. Here at PRT, your seedlings will soon be waking up, becoming active and ready to take on the big, wild world.

"I have worked with seedlings for over 30 years and I still get excited when I see those first seedlings coming out of the boxes and returning to their sites of origin," says Glenn Goodwill, PRT Customer Support Representative for Saskatchewan and Alberta. "Working closely together with our nurseries, customers, foresters, silviculturists, planting contractors, transport companies and others to ensure these trees get their very best start and achieve the best field performance is what it's all about for me." Glenn has some great tips for those of you on the front lines.



Dormant Roots

TRANSPORT AND LOADING

The correct temperature for transporting PRT spring stock depends on whether the seedlings are shipped frozen or thawed. For frozen stock, the reefer temperature should be set to -2°C (28°F). Do not allow the

mercury to drop below -6°C (21°F) to prevent root damage. For thawed stock, the reefers should be at +2°C (36°F), never freezing. Seedling Loading and Transportation Guidelines are posted at every PRT shipping location for quick reference.



Dormant Shoot & Bud

The load should be well secured leaving a minimum of one foot (30 cm) between the top box and the roof so airflow is unrestricted. Frozen boxes can be packed tight together as they will not overheat during normal shipping. Thawed stock, however, is more prone to heating up because the seedlings are no longer dormant. Boxes should be loaded so that there are continuous tunnels throughout the load to allow for air movement.

THOUGHTS ON THAWING IN THE FIELD

When seedlings are being thawed, they are especially vulnerable and need to be protected from extreme temperatures, moisture loss and physical damage. If seedlings are to be thawed outside, it should never be in direct sunlight. Even though our white PRT boxes help keep seedling temperatures lower, all cartons can pick up heat quickly. Thaw them in as much shade as possible - in a shade tent, on the north side of a building, under an elevated reflective tarp or under a canopy of coniferous trees. Completely thawed stock should be kept at 1°C to 2°C (34°F to 36°F) to conserve carbohydrate reserves and delay root growth and bud break until they are in the ground.

Thawing is best done with the cartons closed to retain humidity and reduce stress. Ensure the cartons are well spaced and inspected for temperature and degree of thaw at least once a day. Should the temperature inside the cartons rise above 10°C (50°F), inspect the seedlings for moisture, root/bud activity, mold development and keep them in the shade. Seedlings should ideally be planted within 10 days of thawing. Holding the seedlings for an extended period of time may affect seedling growth potential, field performance and survival.

EASIER YET, LET US THAW THEM FOR YOU

Almost all of our customers prefer to have their seedlings shipped already thawed. The process takes up to one week, so let us know at least two weeks in advance of your delivery date and we can have them ready to go in the ground as soon as they arrive on the planting site. Of course, they'll still need some TLC. Thawed seedlings should be kept in a reefer at 2°C (36°F) right up until planting time. If not in a reefer, put them in a cool, shady area to reduce any temperature stress.

KEEPING HYDRATED IS IMPORTANT

Tree planters know how to keep themselves hydrated and baby trees moist. Spring seedlings have been watered thoroughly prior to storage and should not need to be watered before planting. However, as the roots are very sensitive to exposure, keep the tree bundles wrapped right up to planting so as not to let the seedlings roots dry out. If they are going to be in a planting bag for a long period of time, some absorbent material such as moist paper towel or a wet sponge in the bottom of the bag can help reduce moisture loss.

THE IDEAL SPRING PLANT

Good tree planters have it down to a science. The planting holes must be deep enough to accommodate the entire plug leaving the top of the plug flush with or slightly below the

surrounding earth. Avoid bending the plug (no J roots), and then tamp the soil gently around the seedling without applying too much pressure (eliminate air pockets). Easy does it. Healthy seedlings, proper thawing, good stock handling and thoughtful planting all add up to success. Working with your planting contractors on stock handling and microsite selection has big benefits in maximizing seedling growth potential and field performance

Have a safe and successful spring plant.

For more detailed instructions, see *Thawing and Planting Guidelines* at <http://www.prt.com/products-services/forest-seedlings/seedling-sales/thawing-planting-guidelines>

Your PRT Customer Support Representative is a great source for additional information, so feel free to contact them. This article was originally published in rePoRTER Spring, 2014 and is re-issued here with updates. For other informative articles, visit our website at <http://www.prt.com/products-services/resource-library/articles> and <http://www.prt.com/products-services/resource-library/faqs>



PRT Cold Storage Facility

SPOTLIGHT ON PRT BEAVERLODGE

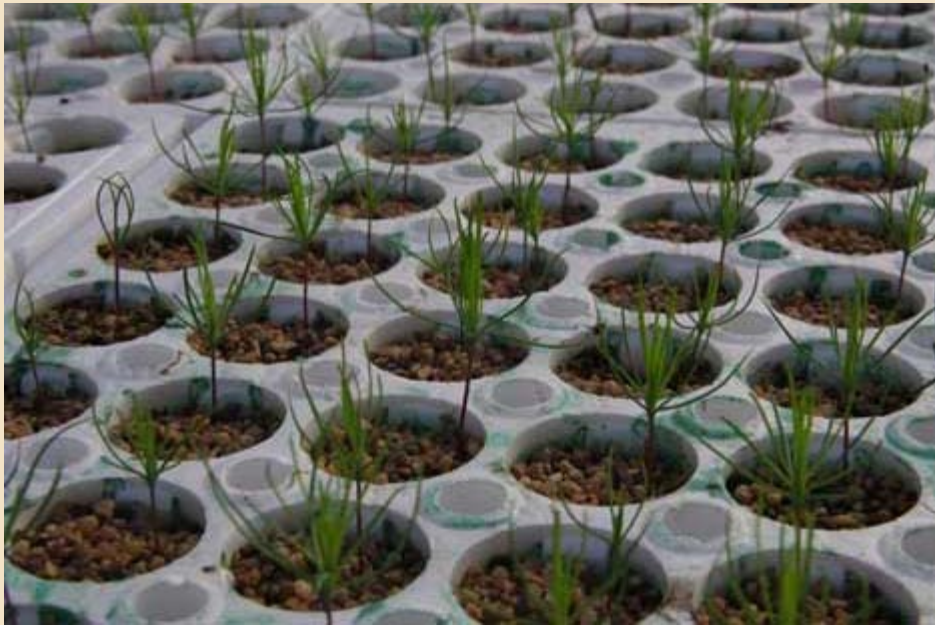
Alberta's Peace Country is famous for oil fields, dinosaur discoveries, cowboys, and great opportunities for outdoor recreation; but did you know that it's also the home of PRT's Beaverlodge nursery?

The town of Beaverlodge is located 48kms (21 miles) from the BC border, and boasts one of the largest beaver statues in the world. PRT's nursery is situated on 39 hectares (96 acres) of rich Alberta farmland, just outside of town, and includes the nursery operations, a purpose-grown willow plantation and water reservoirs. Constructed in 1995 as part of PRT's expansion outside of BC, all forest seedlings produced here must be grown in greenhouses, due to the area's hardiness zone rating of 3b.



Greenhouse range at PRT Beaverlodge

Annually PRT Beaverlodge grows 11 million 1+0 spring/summer, Spruce and Pine seedlings, for plantations in Alberta and Saskatchewan, with a particular focus on summer plant seedlings, which occupy more than half of their output. The onsite cold storage unit can house almost 18,000 seedling boxes, and this means customers can take advantage of Beaverlodge's growing location as well as other PRT nursery locations (such as the Okanagan nursery sites), and then consolidate their stock using Beaverlodge's cold storage facility.



PRT Beaverlodge germinating seedlings

In recent years the nursery has focused on key aspects of PRT culture, such as Continuous Improvement (CI) and Safety. Employees have been receptive and creative in learning and adapting to CI and Safety initiatives. As a result, PRT Beaverlodge was the winner of the President's Safety Award 2015 (please see the corresponding article in this rePoRter). "I am extremely impressed by how our employees have responded" says Patrick Graveley, Nursery Manager - PRT Beaverlodge. "As well as producing excellent seedlings for our customers, we have continually worked on improving our safety record and our Lean approach to production". Patrick knows of what he speaks - he is one of PRT's Lean Green Belt leaders.

This has been part of a continuing series highlighting our nursery operations across North America. For further information on PRT Beaverlodge, please contact Glenn Goodwill, Customer Support Representative, Alberta/Saskatchewan at 780 831 5725.



**Patrick Graveley,
Nursery Manager
PRT Beaverlodge**

PRESIDENTS SAFETY AWARD

Each year at PRT the President's Safety Award is given to the PRT nursery that best exemplifies PRT's journey to the safest worksite possible. The winner for 2015 was PRT Beaverlodge. At the presentation ceremony on Friday, April 3, 2016, PRT President and CEO Rob Miller commented: "A safe workplace is a product of great safety culture; when this is in

place, good safety results are much easier to sustain. Therefore, our goal is to encourage the development of a strong safety culture, where everyone works together to proactively recognize hazards and identify and address safety risks, in order to achieve consistent safety performance. With this in mind, the focus of the President's Safety Award is safety culture. It recognizes commendable efforts to achieve a safety culture which will lead to a safe workplace. PRT Beaverlodge has made safety awareness and risk reduction an important part of how they operate, and has shown great efforts to develop and sustain a strong safety culture. This effort is supported by great teamwork and by the team leaders demonstrating a good balance between safety and production goals. The nursery also enhances safety awareness by holding effective daily huddle meetings, providing safety training above requirements, and with close call reporting. As a result of these efforts, the nursery has achieved an outstanding zero time loss due to injury record for 2015, an accomplishment it has achieved many times before."

It should also be mentioned that all PRT nurseries strive to achieve perfect safety records each year. PRT Coldstream, PRT Dryden, PRT Oregon, PRT Red Rock and Bionera also achieved zero time loss accidents in 2015. Thanks to everyone at PRT for making this a reality.



PRT Beaverlodge team receiving the 2015 President's Safety Award

Safety in the PRT Marketing Group

Driving plays an essential role in PRT's daily business, particularly for us in the Marketing group. Most of the time it's not easy driving! Since much of our work revolves around visiting you, our customer, we frequently travel long trips on highways and logging roads. We have to watch out for logging trucks, fatigue, distraction and wildlife. One of the greatest risks of injury on the job is a traffic injury.

At PRT we have begun by focusing on driver education and driver concentration. At our annual meeting in January, 2016 the Marketing group participated in a seminar on the dangers of distracted driving, presented by Karen Bowman of Drop It and Drive. Karen was assisted by

former first responders and very effective audio visual materials. The presentation brought home the dangers and realities of distracted driving from many people personally affected by traffic injuries caused by distracted driving.

Driving is a full-time job that requires full-time attention. A temporary distraction can cause serious injury or death. Driver distraction is a factor in 4 million motor vehicle crashes in North America each year, and 80% of crashes and 65% of near crashes have some form of driver inattention as contributing factors. PRT has started a campaign against distracted driving by creating a policy that bans the use of hand held devices while driving on company business. The use of the Drop It and Drive seminar is also an effective way of getting the message to PRT employees. We've got a long way to go but it's a step in the right direction.

Marilyn Curtis, Customer Support Representative Coastal BC, attended the seminar. "You don't realize some of the things you do while driving. The Drop It and Drive seminar points out your bad habits and helps you correct them. It was a reminder to all of us to stay focused behind the wheel and do what you should be doing - Drive!"

This has been part of a continuing series highlighting our efforts to improve safety and our safety culture at PRT. For further information on Drop it and Drive, please contact Karen Bowman at 250 797 0833.

BC FORESTRY FACTS

- BC's land base is 95 million hectares (235 million acres), or just a little larger than France and Germany combined.
- 62% of BC (55 million hectares or 135 million acres) is forested.
- Less than 3% of original forest converted to human use.
- More than half of BC's forested area has had little or no human disturbance.
- BC has more than 40 different species of native trees.
- About 83% of BC's forests are predominantly coniferous, 6% are mixed forests, and 6% are broadleaved.
- 32% of BC forests are in coastal regions while the remaining 68% are in interior regions.
- 41% of BC forests are over 140 years old.
- 6 million hectares (15 million acres), or almost 15% of BC's forests, are in protected areas.
- 13% of all forests in protected areas are 141-250 years old.
- BC is home to less than one percent of the world's boreal forest.
- BC is Canada's most ecologically diverse province, with temperate rainforests, dry pine forests, alpine meadows, and more.
- BC is Canada's most biologically diverse province; it is home to more than half of the country's wildlife and fish species.

Learn more from the Council of Forest Industries website: <http://www.cofi.org/industry-info/forest-facts/>



Moss-clad Ancient Cedars along the Ancient Forest Trail demonstrate the unique characteristics of the Inland Rainforest.

Contact Us

For more information, please visit our website at www.prt.com.

To contact our editor, to comment on a story or to report any concerns, [please click here](#).