



25 YEARS
3 BILLION SEEDLINGS

rePoRTER



In our news today:

- **REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE.**
Fully recyclable no-wax boxes give our customers a greener choice.
- **JUST BROWSING? NOT ANYMORE.**
New PRT product, Douglas-fir 2+0, resists elk and deer browse.
- **WAY TO GROW!**
PRT Coldstream takes home the Chief Forester's Award for 2013.
- **FNABC CONFERENCE REVISITED**
Learn about everything from LED lighting to "Lean" tools for training.
- **SPOTLIGHT ON PRT ARMSTRONG**
Close to 30 million seedlings a year are shipped from our largest nursery.

NO-WAX BOXES GIVE CUSTOMERS A GREENER CHOICE

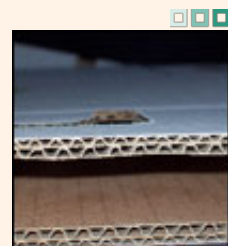
As Kermit the Frog says, it's not easy being green. But at PRT, we're making it easier all the time. Our recycled box program has been engaged in the Three R's for many years now. It started with REDUCE and REUSE, and now we're proudly RECYCLING.

How do we reduce? To minimize the number of planting boxes shipped, we increase the amount of seedlings per box to a reasonable weight limit, always packing seedlings in appropriately designed boxes according to specimen size. There's no one size fits all in this business!

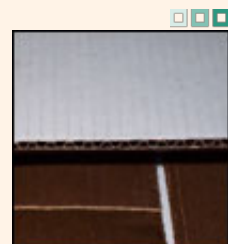
How do we reuse? PRT accepts returns of all used boxes to our nursery facilities. The boxes are sorted according to rigorous standards and the best are reused for summer and winter packaging. This diverts an estimated 125,000 waxed boxes from landfills each year. Unfortunately, not every box gets returned or can be reused. The majority of boxes leaving the nursery still end up in landfills or are left behind in the field, an uncomfortable fact that led PRT to "think outside the box" for a solution.

Five years ago, PRT Harrop started experimenting with no-wax planting boxes that, unlike our traditional boxes, could go directly to local recycling depots. "The first year we began with just 1,000 boxes for one keen customer," remembers Nursery Manager Ray Bagnell. "Today our nurseries ship more than 40,000 of the recyclable boxes every year."

"The size and scope of the program keeps increasing," says Dan Livingston, Customer Support Representative for Southern BC who, along with Bagnell, spearheaded the initiative. "The no-wax boxes aren't for everyone, but in normal, non-abusive operating conditions, they work for most customers who try them. The proof? They keep asking for them year after year."



No wax double walled boxes



Normal wax boxes



Mark MacAulay, Silviculture Supervisor at ATCO Wood Products of Fruitvale, BC, has been a proponent of the program from the very beginning. "PRT has made many improvements to the system. The first no-wax boxes were a little on the weak side and didn't stand up to weather or weight as well as we wanted. But the current ones are doing the job nicely."

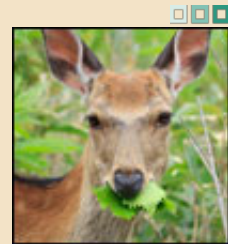
Livingston agrees: "Every year we've taken feedback from our customers and made improvements to the box design. This winter pack season we are trialing a new type of box with a water-based VaporCoat© moisture barrier we hope will eliminate some of the negative aspects of previous designs."

We could "wax" eloquently about the advantages of our recyclable boxes, but let's give the last word to our customer. "I feel it's very progressive of PRT to be pursuing this program," says MacAulay. "Doing business in an environmentally responsible manner is important to ATCO, so important that the availability of these boxes continues to sway me to buy seedlings from PRT over other suppliers."

Interested in going green, too? Contact Dan Livingston, Customer Support Representative, directly at dan.livingston@prt.com or 877-600-8733.

JUST BROWSING? NOT ANYMORE. NEW PRT PRODUCT HELPS RESIST ELK AND DEER BROWSE

To a Roosevelt elk, the lush green tips of young Douglas-fir seedlings are irresistible, and as foresters know all too well, a few elk or deer can do an incredible amount of damage to a freshly planted area in just one feeding. An elk consumes an average of 9.1 kilograms (20 lbs) of vegetation daily making the loss of large numbers of seedlings to elk and deer browse each year a fact of life in our forests. Over the years, commercial growers and planters have tried various solutions to little success. Now PRT has taken on the chow-down challenge.



Deer Browse

Four years in development at PRT Campbell River, our new **Douglas-fir 2+0 browse resistant seedlings** are disappointing deer and elk daily. What makes them different? The growers at PRT took their cue from Mother Nature.

"You can drive over a native Douglas-fir seedling on a logging road and it pops right back up," says Marilyn Curtis, PRT Customer Support Representative for Coastal BC. "Sown and grown outdoors, it's naturally resilient. It stands up better to weather, wildlife, whatever life throws at it because it's conditioned to its environment. We wondered what would happen if we tried to grow our seedlings the same way. Would they have a natural advantage?"

It turns out they do. Sown in a larger cavity and grown entirely outdoors through all seasons for two years before planting in the wild, this new Douglas-fir product is far hardier than a greenhouse-grown specimen of the same species. With its coarse, woody stem, the Douglas-fir 2+0 is not as pretty or perfect looking as a pampered greenhouse-grown nursery seedling, but that's the key to its protection.

"It's a skookum tree," says Curtis. "One that can brave the elements better than greenhouse-grown stock because it's larger and it's been raised 100% outdoors. The needles are not soft and lush; they're darker green and chewy making them much less inviting to deer and elk."

The project has grown from a small operational trial in 2009 to orders of close to 100,000 seedlings in 2013. The first shipment was planted in summer 2012. "It's early days yet," says Curtis. "But the field results look extremely promising." That is, for PRT customers if not for the local

wildlife.

For more information on this product, please contact Marilyn Curtis, Customer Support Representative, directly at marilyn.curtis@prt.com or 250-733-2051.

WAY TO GROW! PRT COLDSTREAM TAKES HOME THE CHIEF FORESTER'S AWARD

Congratulations to Manager Elizabeth Brown, Lead Grower Jon de la Campa and the whole team at PRT Coldstream (Vernon, BC) on being presented the **Chief Forester's Award** for 2013.

A highlight of the Forest Nursery Association of BC's annual conference, the Chief Forester's Award is presented to the BC nursery which has produced the highest quality of seedlings in a seed lot and stock type that is identified at the beginning of the year by the organizing committee of the FNABC annual meeting.

Enough seed to sow three blocks is offered to every BC nursery by the BC MoF Seed Center. The nurseries bring their best block to the conference where it is measured and a winner is determined based on the BC MoF specification of a quality seedling. This year's judging panel led by Art Moeller of the BC Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (MFLNRO) declared the winner to be PRT Coldstream.

PRT nurseries compete for the Chief Forester's Award whenever the species/stock type combination can be grown in their facility and climate. This year's winning specimen was Lodgepole Pine in a 310B block grown in an open compound. "The last PRT nursery to win was PRT Campbell River in 1993," says Brown. "The staff at PRT Coldstream is very proud of our accomplishment this year. Not to mention the award looks amazing hanging in the Grow Team's office."

Brown and her team weren't the only winners that night. The **Green Timbers Award** for 2013 went to Tom Landis. Given for significant contributions to the overall development of forest seedling production practices in BC, the award was presented by past recipient Ev Van Eerden, one of the founders of PRT. Renowned for his work south of the border as well, Landis is perhaps best known in Canada for authoring the *Container Tree Nursery Manual*, a long-standing series of publications that to this day are the backbone of information for container forest seedling growers.

Congratulations to all the winners.



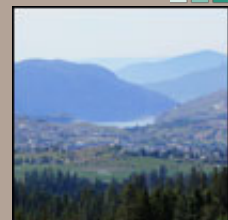
Jon de la Campa & Elizabeth Brown - PRT Coldstream

SIMPLIFICATION - EFFICIENCIES - OUTLOOKS

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FOREST NURSERY ASSOCIATION OF BC ANNUAL CONFERENCE

As if there weren't enough reasons to enjoy the beautiful city of Vernon in the fall, this year's Forest Nursery Association of BC (FNABC) annual conference gave us more. September 30 to October 2 brought together delegates from across BC, Alberta and the USA for two days of informative presentations, panels, field tours, award ceremonies and networking opportunities in this stunning North Okanagan setting.

On the first morning, a panel presentation focusing on stock type simplification included industry experts and practitioners Dale Likes from Canfor, Grant Glessing from Tolko Industries, Allan Rasmussen from BC



Vernon, BC

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (MFLNRO), Clare Kooistra from Conifera Consulting, and PRT's own Customer Support Representative for Southern BC, Dan Livingston. The panel moderated by Rod Massey from the Tolko Eagle Rock Nursery generally concluded that stock type orders will likely continue to be simplified as customers look to achieve their reforestation goals in the most cost-effective means possible.

The day continued with an energetic talk by industry expert Murray Hall who spoke on fibre supply and the future of the BC interior and coastal forest industries. In the afternoon, the delegates enjoyed field tours of a number of local operations before the evening banquet and awards ceremony.

Day two of the conference featured two technical presentations. The first given by Dr. Tom Landis, Nursery Specialist Emeritus from the USDA Forest Service, focused on LED lighting and its application in the production of forest seedling crops. The second was a look into the current and future state of the BC Seed Orchard seed supply by Stephen Joyce, Seed Production Manager, Tree Improvement Branch (MFLNRO).

Peter Richter, PRT Director of Human Resources and Regional Manager North, moderated Wednesday's panel presentation and discussion. The group explored the concept of creating a workplace culture that improves employee engagement and retention through the use of "Lean" tools and practices. Consultants Jody Marshall and Dale Schattenkirk shared valuable insights on creating innovative and efficient workplaces while boosting employee morale. PRT Harrop Nursery Manager Ray Bagnell, a certified Training Within Industry (TWI) trainer, talked about the power of using TWI techniques to quickly and effectively train new employees. Consistent training is especially important in the forest seedling industry where we rely on a large seasonal workforce.

Congratulations to the organizing committee, speakers, sponsors and suppliers on another successful FNABC conference. We look forward to seeing everyone again in Prince George in September 2014.

Missed the conference? You can access all the speaker presentations on the FNABC website at <http://www.fnabc.com/news.html>

PRT ARMSTRONG - INNOVATION AND EXPERTISE

One of the 13 nursery sites we operate in Canada and the United States, PRT Armstrong is located in the fertile Spallumcheen Valley midway between Vernon and Armstrong, British Columbia. In the early part of the 20th century, Armstrong was known as "Celery City". The area abounded with vegetable farms, and for a time, it was also one of the largest asparagus growing centres in Canada.

It's a long way from salads to seedlings, but a hospitable climate is key to success for both. With warm summers and mild winters, PRT Armstrong grows all commercial seedling species planted in Canada and the western United States including high quality Lodgepole Pine, White Spruce, Jack Pine, Western Larch, Interior Douglas-fir, Yellow Pine and Black Spruce. It's our largest operation and ships close to 30 million seedlings a year.

Five on-site seed orchards also produce around 80 kilograms of Lodgepole Pine and Douglas-fir seed annually for the Thompson-Okanagan and Nelson seed zones. Plans are in the works to add another interior Douglas-fir orchard in Spring 2015.

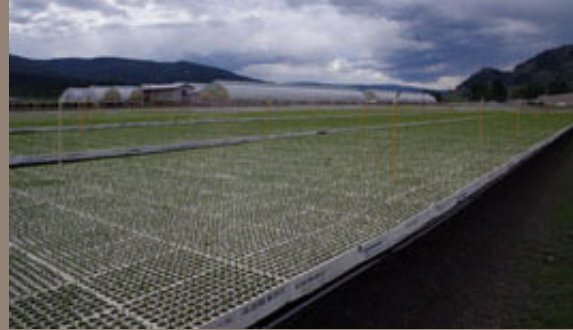
With all this growth, it's a good thing PRT Armstrong isn't wanting for space. This busy nursery is 70 hectares (173 acres) in size and currently has 12 greenhouses with a total capacity of 32,000 blocks. The open compound can accommodate an additional 270,000 blocks. "This year we added a new outside growing facility that increased our capacity by 53,000 blocks," says new Nursery Manager Chris Mostyn.

Formerly with PRT Vernon, Mostyn took on management of the larger Armstrong operation this

fall. He feels its strengths are in innovation and expertise: "For example, spruce crops used to be grown in greenhouses, but in recent years PRT Armstrong has developed ways to grow quality open compound spruce products for our customers at a lower cost."

Mostyn is excited to be part of a dynamic and innovative environment where he's working with "a great bunch of people - both customers and employees."

In addition to the nursery team, PRT Armstrong is also home to Rob Maxwell, VP Production, Peter Richter, Director of Human Resources and Regional Manager North, plus Ops Accountant Terri Miller and her administration staff.



This has been part of a continuing series highlighting our nursery operations across North America.

Merry Christmas from all of us to all of you - our customers, partners and friends. May the New Year bring you health, happiness and prosperity.



Contact Us

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

For more information, to comment on a story, or to report any concerns, [please click here.](#)