

# Chapter 7: Growing New Trees

In 1931, the Minnesota Legislature authorized the production of seedlings as a way to ensure the existence of future forests. That same year, Badoura State Forest Nursery was established near Akeley. General Andrews State Forest Nursery was established near Willow River in 1939, and began producing seedlings the following year.

Located on a combined total of 560 acres, the two state nurseries got their start as a source of trees for reforesting public land after harvest. When we began encouraging private landowners to plant trees, we also began selling seedlings as a service. Over the years, the nurseries have distributed hundreds of millions of trees around the state.

The two state nurseries produce more than 20 species of trees and many species of shrubs. All told, 10 million seedlings are sold each year to state, federal, county, and local land managers; commercial forest managers; and schools, organizations, and individuals.

## Healthy Stock

We place high value on producing healthy, well-adapted stock. The ideal seedlings for use in Minnesota are grown from seeds collected from Minnesota trees. DNR nurseries also maintain seed orchards from which we harvest seed from superior trees of some of the more common species. We also buy seeds from private collectors.

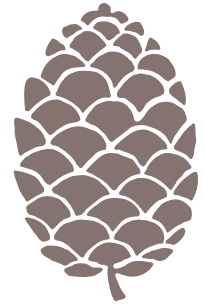
## Quality Counts

Quality is an important consideration when growing the seedlings that will become Minnesota's future forests.

We take several approaches to ensuring that tomorrow's trees will be healthy, vigorous, and productive. We promote the use of native Minnesota tree species, which are adapted to our environment. We use seeds from healthy, strong stock. We also use selective breeding to produce the best possible trees for the conditions in which they will grow.

## Tree Sales

DNR nurseries sell seedlings in lots of 100, with a minimum purchase of 500 trees. Orders are accepted from August 15 until early spring or until supplies run out. Seedlings purchased from DNR forest nurseries must be planted in Minnesota. They must be used to establish or reforest wood lots, windbreaks, and shelterbelts,



**Collecting Cones.** Some of the seed used to grow new conifers in state forest nurseries comes from individuals who collect cones and sell them to the DNR. Current prices for cones range from \$16 to \$100 per bushel, depending on the species. For more information on gathering cones for use in DNR nurseries, contact your local DNR Forestry office (see page 4).



Photo: Minnesota DNR

or used for erosion control, soil and water conservation, or permanent food and cover for wildlife. They may not be planted for ornamental purposes or resold with roots attached for 10 years.

Species grown and sold by DNR Forestry include red pine, white pine, jack pine, white spruce, balsam fir, white cedar, tamarack, red cedar, red oak, bur oak, white oak, black walnut, green ash, silver maple, hybrid poplar, cottonwood, red-osier dogwood, and common chokecherry.

**For information on tree sales, contact:**

- **General Andrews Nursery**  
P.O. Box 95  
85894 Cty. Highway 61  
Willow River, MN 55795  
218-372-3183
- **Badoura Nursery**  
13885 State Street  
Akeley, MN 56433  
218-652-2385
- or see [www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/nurseries](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/nurseries)