Shorter days and colder nights can mean only one thing at the PMC. Harvest season is approaching. As most of you know, bare root seedlings cannot be lifted from the ground until they are dormant. As soon as dormancy is reached, the PMC begins lifting right away for customers who want to start planting as early as possible. Dormancy is determined two ways. Wait for deciduous stock to drop their leaves or for conifers, track the amount of time below 40°F, which is 300 hours. That often does not occur until the 1st of December.

When those requirements are met, the PMC hires approximately 25 seasonal workers to begin harvest. Once the lifting crew and packing crew hit their stride, they can process an average of 30,000 plants a day. That includes lifting the plants and placing them in totes, which are then taken into the packing shed. Inside the plants are sorted, graded, bundled, bagged and placed in the cooler to await shipping.

The process of taking the plants from the ground and getting them to the customer requires a considerable amount of communication, which is where Jacquie comes in. Some of the inquiries she might field include plant size, cost, bundle quantities, date needed and shipping methods.

Any information regarding an order is important. The date that the plants are needed can be particularly important. The lead time necessary can be over a week if the order is large, stock has not been lifted and there are others ahead of it. Even if all of the plants are already in the cooler, it can take a few days to process orders ahead of it.

After an order is pulled, shipping needs to be addressed. Smaller orders can be boxed up and shipped with UPS. Larger orders might need an over-the-road carrier. Picking up plants at the PMC is often the least expensive and quickest way to go.

Once the plants are received, they should be planted right away or placed in cold storage. Bare root plants should not be held at room temperature for more that two or three days to help ensure that they maintain optimum vigor and viability.

As mentioned earlier, communication is very important to make sure everything works correctly. Do not hesitate to contact us with any questions, requirements or anything else.
Custom Propagation

Custom propagation is the production of seedlings using site-specific seeds either provided or specified by the customer. It is a service that has been offered by the PMC for many years, but done infrequently. The biggest obstacle often is lead-time. It can take 3 years or longer to find and collect seed, and to grow the plant materials.

There are people in the restoration community that are becoming increasingly interested in the seed provenance and genetics of the plant materials they are using. If the need and time are available for custom propagation, the PMC can help make it happen. Please contact us for further information.

Contract Growing

Contract growing differs somewhat from custom propagation. The seed source might be a little less restrictive. A tree seed zone might be used instead of a specific watershed. The stock-type and other physical characteristics might be emphasized more. Most contract growing calls for transplant production, usually plug-1 production. In that type of contract, seedlings are first grown in plug trays in a greenhouse for 1 season, then transplanted into beds at the PMC. The end result is a seedling with more roots than seedlings growing from seeds in a seedbed. Most contract for production of their transplants, since due to costs, nurseries do not typically grow a wide variety of transplants in large quantities. The PMC has many years of experience with contract growing and would be glad to answer any questions.

Ten Reasons We Plant Trees

1. **Trees save energy and money.** Just three trees strategically planted around your home can cut your air conditioning bill in half.
2. **Trees save tax.** Trees in a city slow storm water runoff and reduce the need for storm sewers. Tree shade also helps cool municipal buildings, lowering electricity bills.
3. **Trees cool our cities.** Urban “heat islands” are directly related to massive tree-cutting for development.
4. **Trees clean our water and air.** From low level ozone in our cities to pesticide and fertilizer runoff from our farms, trees absorb harmful pollutants.
5. **Trees help community life.** Tree planting and community based forestry can add significantly to a local community’s sustainable economy while restoring the environment.
6. **Trees protect soil.** By holding soil in place with their root systems, by deflecting pounding rain with their canopies, and by adding nutrients each fall with their leaves, trees are crucial to keeping and improving our soil.
7. **Trees provide habitat for species of many kinds.** Trees provide food and shelter for numerous species of animals.
8. **Trees can pay your “carbon debt”.** Planting just 30 trees will absorb the amount of carbon dioxide that is generated in the production of energy for the average American lifestyle each year.
9. **Trees provide clean water and natural flood control.** Forests act as natural reservoirs, and they protect watersheds, providing clean water for cities, bays and rivers.
10. **Trees are a beautiful part of our lives.** From striking individual trees that are of historic significance or are simply large and majestic, to a grove of trees in a city park, trees enrich our lives by simply being there. Trees are not just a key to the natural ecosystem; trees are an essential part of community life.

Presidential Conservation Legacies

This is the time that everyone is thinking of the Presidency. One of the more enduring legacies that a President can leave is one of conservation. Thomas Jefferson sent Lewis and Clark across the continent to assess the natural resources his Louisiana Purchase held. Franklin Roosevelt saw the creation of the Soil Conservation Service and the Civilian Conservation Corps which planted hundreds of millions of trees. Lyndon Johnson’s Great Society saw the creation of the Wilderness Act, as well as supported his wife Lady Bird who tirelessly advocated protection of natural resources. Theodore Roosevelt was the President that has the most enduring conservation legacy. His Administration created 150 National Forests, 51 Federal Bird Reservations, 4 National Game Preserves, 5 National Parks, 18 National Monuments, 24 Reclamation Projects, and 7 Conservation Conferences and Commissions.

“In utilizing and conserving the natural resources of the Nation, the one characteristic more essential than any other is foresight.”

Theodore Roosevelt, June 10, 1907
The 2008 growing season has been one of the best ever in terms of quantity, quality and plant size. Some of the real stand outs are listed below. As always, seeing is believing. Now is a good time to stop by the PMC to see exactly what we mean.

**Indian Plum** (*Oemleria cerasiformis*) - In the past the PMC has only offered Indian Plum as a 2-0 (2 year old) because they seldom exceeded 12” as a 1-0. Some of this years crop of 1-0’s exceed 24”. Anyone wanting Indian Plum this year might want to consider going with a 1-0. They are less expensive, and in some cases, less susceptible to transplant shock than 2-0’s. The larger 2-0’s do handle weed and browse competition better and come in smaller bundle sizes; 10 instead of 50.

**Oregon Ash** (*Fraxinus latifolia*) - Unprecedented seed viability can be the only explanation for the quantity of 2-0 Oregon Ash for this year. Looking at the bed, it appears every single seed germinated. That in itself is not reason purchase any. Its ability to thrive in wet soils, large stature, wildlife habitat value, bright yellow fall color and superior wood quality are however. If a large hardwood shade tree is needed, Oregon Ash should be considered.

**Pacific Crabapple** (*Malus fusca*) - As with Oregon Ash, the PMC has an unprecedented quantity of quality 2-0 Pacific Crabapple available this year. Also like Oregon Ash, it is found to thrive in wet soils. Its fruits are also an important source of food for many species of over-wintering birds. And while Pacific Crabapple does not grow as large or is as brilliant as Oregon Ash, its adaptability and value in an ecosystem make it a small deciduous tree that should be considered for most planting projects.

**Red Alder** (*Alnus rubra*) - This years crop of 1-0 Red Alder is undoubtedly the biggest and best one ever at the PMC. The PMC has been growing more and more for people planting Alder for timber production. While that is the primary use of Red Alder, it is not its only value. It is also an important restoration species. It is nitrogen-fixing, soil-building, soil stabilizing and shade-providing. All-in-all, it is a pretty important tree for the Pacific Northwest.

**Red Flowering Currant** (*Ribes sanguineum*) - Every year the PMC has grown more and more Red Flowering Currant and every year it has not been able to meet demand. This year might be different. We planted more seed which germinated and grew better than ever. And it is certainly understandable why there is such high demand. It has a high ornamental value, with the bright pink flowers that are produced in early spring. It is also an important species for wildlife habitat (including Hummingbirds) and upland soil stabilization.

**Vine Maple** (*Acer circinatum*) - This year’s 1-0 Vine Maple crop is a lot like the 1-0 Indian Plum crop. It is big enough to sell. As with the Indian Plum, we usually only sell it as a 2-0 since the 1-0’s usually do not get large enough. This year there are a lot that are over 18”, a fine size for planting out or potting up. Not only are they larger than ever before, but in unprecedented quantities. There are several rows out in the field that are starting to turn brilliant red, orange and yellow. It is quite a sight this time of year.

**Port Orford Cedar** (*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*) - Port Orford Cedar is a tree that has many fine attributes. It is also one that needs to be planted in the proper site. The tree should not be planted in wet soils. It needs good drainage. Those with proper sites should consider this one. It is moderately fast growing and remains fairly full and dense down to the ground, making a good screen. Its boughs are in high demand for Christmas greens. Its wood is valued for its grain and rot-resistance.

**Rocky Mountain Juniper** (*Juniperus scopulorum*) - Rocky Mountain Juniper is one of the most drought-resistant conifers one will find. It is often used for wind breaks in eastern Washington as well as upland soil stabilization. While most of the Rocky Mountain Juniper sold here goes to the east-side, it is also used west of the Cascades, where it is often planted for its ornamental value. Its bluish-green foliage is striking, particularly in contrast with its reddish bark.
PMC Web Site Update

The Plant Material Center's website is a reliable source for information referencing native plants. On our website, you will find a list of all the plants that we grow. By clicking on the common name, you can find out more information about the distribution, growth habit, adaptability, interesting comments, photos and much more.

Our website also has links to several printable brochures such as:

♦ Bareroot Planting Guide
♦ Planting is for the Birds
♦ Wildlife Habitat Brochure
♦ Windbreak Information
♦ Firewise Brochure
♦ Living Snow Fences

You can also find information on our website about the following:

♦ How to choose the right species for your planting project.
♦ What do different seed sources mean and why they are important for plant survivability.
♦ What is the difference between stock types.
♦ Tips on shipping, handling and storing your trees.
♦ Tips on how to plant bare-root stock.

You can also download our Order Form and a Washington State Resale Certificate.

Check out our new photo gallery on our website! Just click on PMC Photos!

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