

FOREST SEEDLING PRODUCTION IN FINLAND AND SWEDEN

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As in North America, there has been great interest in the Scandinavian countries in the various systems of producing container-grown seedlings for reforestation. Various types of plastic containers have been tried as well as the peat sausage type "Nissula" system.

Of all systems tried, the most popular seems to be the Paperpot system. These Paperpots are actually individual tubes which are glued together with a water-soluble glue. The size used for forest seedlings is 4 cm. in diameter and 8 cm. deep (about 1½ inches x 3½ inches). A strip of these tubes is stretched out to fill a flat approximately 13 inches wide and 3 feet long, containing 336 cavities.

Probably one of the reasons which has made these containers so practical is that the Finns have developed and manufacture an automatic filling and seeding line which can seed up to one-half million pots per day.

Species being grown are mostly Scotch pine and Norway spruce. The growing medium is a fairly granular grade of sphagnum peat with lime and, in some cases, minor elements added to the mix — with a conventional liquid feeding program thereafter.

Polyhouses are used extensively and in some cases, the seedlings are moved out for planting at quite a small size, 2 to 3 inches in height for early planting, with a second crop being produced for late fall or spring planting.

MODERATOR MAIRE: Thank you, Doug. Our last speaker is Ed Wood. I think most of you know Ed. He is the current Chairman of our Membership Committee. Ed is going to talk on containerized seedling trees. Ed has been in the nursery business a long time; he is also in consulting work and is presently a consultant for the Republic of Germany on reforestation. This must be a real interesting project. Ed Wood.