
GUIDELINES FOR REVEGETATION PROJECTS

When to contact us

For contract growing of revegetation materials, it is best to contact us between July-September, prior to the start of the project. This gives us time to review the tentative list of plant species, have input on how, when and how much plant material should be collected, and to start the planning process.

Planning meeting

We recommend having a planning meeting in December or January with the propagator, project coordinator and installer. During this meeting, we discuss and agree on collection methods, timing, and plant container types. We determine a process for handling order changes and other ways to establish effective communications throughout the project.

Collection

In most cases, we prefer to use collectors from Cornflower Farms. This is necessary to control the type of material collected and the amount needed to produce the projected number of plants. We can train the client to do the collection. If you plan to use someone other than Cornflower Farms to collect, you will need to complete the following:

- Contact our nursery manager on the Friday or Monday before collection so that supplies and manpower can be scheduled to process your material.
- Material should be collected and processed the same day if possible. Plant material should be collected in the cool of the day and kept moist and cool while in transit to Cornflower Farms.
- Cuttings collected should be wrapped in either wet burlap or newspaper and put in a plastic bag. During summer weather and depending on travel distance from the collection site to Cornflower Farms, you may want to wet down, ice, and box cuttings.
- Two labels should accompany each bag of materials collected. One label should be put inside the bag and the other secured to the outside. Each label should have the complete genetic name of the plant printed clearly on one side. On the other side of the tag, write the project name and collection location information that needs to follow the plant material.

Note: Material can only be grown to a particular size in the allotted time. If material is brought to the nursery late, or if there is not enough suitable plant material, plants may not be of full size by the scheduled planting date. Cornflower Farms is not responsible when we do not have direct control of plant collection. Material collected by others that is identified incorrectly is not the responsibility of the

nursery. The project is responsible for all expenses incurred for processing this material.

When using Cornflower Farms' collectors, plan for them to meet your project biologist or other qualified personnel at the collection site to identify specific areas for collection.

Plant Material Pick-up

For large orders, please contact us a week in advance of picking up your plant materials so we may grade your order and have it ready. Small orders usually require two days to prepare, but we'll try our best to work within your time schedule. For plant materials that we will be delivering, please contact us as far in advance as possible so that we can fit your order into our delivery schedule.

Please pick up plant material in a covered vehicle only! Even tarpaulins, if not tightly fastened or without enough air space above plant materials, will whip plants.

You'll need to set up an on-site nursery or holding area for unplanted material. It only takes one day of water stress or excessive heat to dry out some containers, damaging plant vigor. If an onsite nursery or holding area can't be provided, plan to pick up only what is needed a day in advance.

Handling of Plant Material at Planting

Be sure to train planters about the proper method of removing revegetation materials from containers. This is critical. Supervise planters to be sure they are following recommended transplanting methods.

Improper removal of plants can rip out most of the surface root hairs and result in significant plant losses.

Here's the proper way to remove plant material:

- Be sure the container soil is moist to reduce friction between the side of the container and the root ball.
- Roll or squeeze the container lightly in your hands to break the surface connection. Don't squeeze so hard that you distort the root ball and break root hairs.
- Gently tap the plant out of the container, cradling it as it comes out. **Do not pull out by the plant stem!**

Prepare the hole for planting. Be sure the soil has been settled at least two times and that the hole is deep enough so the bottom of the root ball will not be 'J-rooted' or compressed. The plant should not be buried any deeper than 1/4" to 1/2" below the original soil line. Plants such as Cercis, Heteromeles, Pinus, and Rhamnus are extremely intolerant to deeper planting. After backfilling, water plants to eliminate air pockets. Plants that have sunk should be lifted gently with a shovel or bar; not pulled by the stem.

Deep watering is preferable. Watch not to overwater.