AUGUST 5: Considering the Fall Planting Option: A Biological Perspective to Support A Successful Outcome  
Steve Grossnickle (NurseryToForest Solutions) and Joanne E. MacDonald (Natural Resources Canada)

There is an opportunity to utilize the fall planting window to expand options for reforestation programs. In considering this planting window, one must understand the physiological status of seedlings to be utilized in this program. Nursery cultural practices that harden seedlings can be used to initiate the development of dormancy so that seedlings to be outplanted in the fall planting window have developed drought resistance and freezing tolerance, while still having the capability to grow roots. Potential field site environmental conditions need to be monitored so seedlings are not planted into a site where the potential for drought or severe frost can exacerbate planting stress. An option for a lift/store into a spring planting program needs to be considered if field site conditions do not provide suitable outplanting conditions. This understanding of the biological capabilities of seedlings in combination with an understanding of potential field site conditions will allow foresters to balance benefits as well as risks in implementing a fall planting program.

AUGUST 12: Expert Panel Discussion: Strategies for Nursery Operations During the Pandemic

This panel will include nursery experts from Oregon, Tennessee, and British Columbia along with an expert from United Food and Commercial Workers. Each expert will present their current strategies for efficiently and effectively conducting work while protecting employee health.
AUGUST 19: Water Wise: Efficient Nursery Water Use
Sarah White (Clean Water³ - Clemson University)

Watering plants is time-consuming, water-intensive, and sometimes difficult to know if you are getting it “just” right. This webinar will give tips for how you can water more efficiently, reduce water loss (and fertilizer loss), and safely reuse irrigation return water.

AUGUST 26: Climate Change and Variability Impacts on Nurseries
Steve McNulty (USDA Southeast Regional Climate Hub)

Climate change impacts almost every aspect of the forest nursery industry. While the climate has always changed (and always will), the rate and variability of climate change have increased over the past 40 years. Increasing heat waves, flooding, drought and associated wildfire risk and insect species outbreaks, changing growing seasons, and shifting species ranges are all considerations when selecting nursery stock. These same factors can impact seedling survival and planting dates. This talk will identify some of the significant challenges to forestry nursery industry and tools that are being developed to address these challenges in response to climate change-related pressures.

September 2: The Potential for Improving Nursery Practices through the Application of Plant Hydraulic Physiology Research
Rebecca Sheridan (Oregon State University)

Understanding plant water use is fundamental to establishing appropriate nursery growing practices. We can use what we know about how plants move water from roots to leaves, as well as plant vulnerabilities to water stress, to refine growing practices to achieve both efficient water use and high-quality seedling production.
SEPTEMBER 9: Challenges to the Reforestation Pipeline in the Southwestern US: From Seed to Nursery to Outplanting
Owen Burney (New Mexico State University)

In the southwestern US, there is a growing interest and need to restore disturbed landscapes such as post-fire environments. However, the understanding and application of the reforestation/restoration pipeline is often neglected. This oversight can result in planting failures or an inability to even establish projects. Thus, it is important to understand the connection among seed, nurseries, outplanting, and post-planting maintenance to properly develop a successful reforestation/restoration program.

SEPTEMBER 16: Seed Preparation Techniques to Maximize Germination in the Nursery
Nabil Khadduri (Washington Department of Natural Resources)

Looking to improve nursery germination? Seeing discrepancies between lab tests and actual germ in greenhouse and field production? This presentation will cover fundamental seed preparation techniques to maximize both germination capacity (total germ) and germ speed. Selected “advanced” techniques will also be discussed. The webinar focus is on conifers of the Pacific Northwest, with general applicability of most methods.

SEPTEMBER 23: Back to Nursery Basics
Jeremy Pinto (USDA Forest Service)

Whether you’ve been in the business for years and need a refresher, or whether you’re new on scene and eager to learn, it’s always good to cover some of the basic concepts related to nursery production. What shall we cover? What would you like to see? Basics can be any of the following: growing media, containers, seed or vegetative propagation, water quality and irrigation, fertilizer, crop planning, and more! For our final webinar we’ll cover a topic of your choosing. Be sure to keep a lookout for our polls!

This series has been put together by the organizers of the following annual meetings:
- Western Forest and Conservation Nursery Association
- Intertribal Nursery Council
- Joint Southern and Northeastern Forest and Conservation Nursery Associations
- Intermountain Container Seedling Growers’ Association
- Forest Nursery Association of British Columbia