

Kentucky State Nursery Program



Even though Kentucky is blessed with 11.7 million acres of woodlands, many open areas across the state would benefit from being planted with trees. Often these areas were previously cleared for agricultural uses and are currently growing up in low-quality vegetation. Over time, nature can reforest itself on its own. However, this process can take many years and may result in less than desirable tree species coming back. Tree planting not only saves time but also allows you the opportunity to select the best species for a particular site.

The Kentucky Division of Forestry operates two nurseries where tree seedlings are raised for planting on privately owned lands. These nurseries are located in western Kentucky at Gilbertsville in Marshall County near Kentucky Dam Village State Park and in eastern Kentucky at Grassy Creek in Morgan County near West Liberty. Seedlings grown at these nurseries are from genetically improved seed with superior characteristics, such as fast growth rates, straight trunks, and good natural pruning of limbs.

The nurseries produce a wide variety of native hardwood and pine species suitable to plant in open areas for producing future timber crops, enhancing wildlife habitat, establishing windbreaks and Christmas tree plantations, and protecting soil from wind and water erosion. Even in urban areas, tree planting is a preferred practice in reducing heating and cooling costs, providing privacy and noise barriers, and improving the overall value of the urban landscape.

The division grows between three and four million seedlings per year. The seedlings are bare-rooted and available in quantities of 50 and 500 and are shipped during the tree's dormant season (December to April). Orders are accepted as early as July 1 of each year but will not be shipped via UPS until late fall at the earliest. For more information about the Division of Forestry's nursery program, available tree seedlings, prices, and assistance in species selection, please see the seedling order form in this issue, and check the division's web site (www.forestry.ky.gov/programs/reforestation).

All photos courtesy
of Kentucky Division
of Forestry



Author:
Diana Olszowy

Stewardship and Education Branch Manager for the Kentucky Division of Forestry. She is also an editor of the Kentucky Woodlands Magazine.

Kentucky Division of Forestry, 627 Comanche Trail,
Frankfort, KY 40601. E-mail: diana.olszowy@ky.gov.
Phone: 502.564.4496, Fax: 502.564.6553