

Seed Use Efficiency Meeting

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Seed Orchard Seed Production – Interior

Seed Orchards deliver improved seed for reforestation. Seed orchard efficiency in its simplest terms is concerned with how we can produce seed as economically as possible. Five facets are discussed regarding how seed orchards can affect the efficiency of the entire seed handling system. They are orchard planning and design, maximizing cones produced per orchard tree, maximizing seeds per cone, optimizing cone condition to maximize seed recovery at extraction, and maximizing germination capacity of seed produced. Orchard planning attempts to match orchard production to seedling needs. Cones per tree, seeds per cone, and seed recovery are affected by orchard management practices including cone induction, pest control, cultural treatments, and cone handling. Germination capacity is a large determiner of seed use efficiency in nurseries. Some observations are presented on how timing of collection relates to germination capacity.