



# Cone and Seed Improvement Program BCMoF Tree Seed Centre

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## Western White Pine Stratification Treatment

The Tree Seed Centre (TSC) has currently changed the standard procedure used to test and operationally prepare seed of western white pine (Pw). The new procedure consists of a 14-day soak and 98 days of cold stratification. The soak portion consists of two days in running water followed by 12 days in standing water with a daily water exchange during weekdays. The procedure was recommended based on trials performed at the TSC and the initial work of prolonged soaks by Dr. George Edwards.

We have just completed the double-testing of 66 seedlots of Pw with the old (G52) and the current (G55) pretreatment. The results are very promising as the current procedure produced **an average gain in germination capacity of 21%** over the old procedure. Gains for individual seedlots ranged up to 43%. The cost for this gain is four additional weeks of pretreatment (at the TSC) which means that the planning of Pw sowing requests must be in SPAR one month earlier.

All seedlots with balances above 500 grams were tested, but about 20 seedlots remain untested with the new treatment. If you are planning on growing seedlings from a Pw seedlot that does not have a current G55 test please advise the TSC and we will initiate the testing of this seedlot. If you have any questions about this new procedure or background information on Pw stratification techniques please contact Dave Kolotelo at the TSC (541-1683).

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