

SOMETHING NEW—THE *NATIVE PLANTS JOURNAL*

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Abstract

The demand for native plants continues to increase, but published information on how to propagate natives is extremely limited. The *Native Plants Journal*, a full-color publication produced as a cooperative between the University of Idaho and the USDA Forest Service, provides a forum for sharing practical information about growing and planting native plants.

Key Words

Nursery, seedlings, Internet, plant production

Forest and conservation nurseries are being asked to propagate an increasingly wide variety of native plants, from ferns and forbs to shrubs and noncommercial trees. Learning how to propagate this variety of plants can be a formidable challenge. Recognizing this need, the Reforestation, Nurseries and Genetic Resources (RNGR) team of the USDA Forest Service came up with the idea of developing a publication for sharing information about growing and planting native plants: the *Native Plants Journal*. In spring 1999, a cooperative agreement was made between the University of Idaho Forest Research Nursery and the Forest Service to begin work on the first issue. The journal will be published twice each year in full color.

The journal, which I like to describe as an eclectic forum for dispersing practical information about planting and growing native plants, will be published in spring 2000. I serve as editor-in-chief. The aim of the journal is to publish a wide variety of information on a diverse number of species throughout North America. To ensure a continental coverage, the editorial board is composed of individuals across the US and Canada and reflects a range of specialties. Another objective of the journal is to provide opportunities for scientists to publish reviewed material (but still emphasizing

practical importance) and for workers in the field to publish information they've discovered through experience. Therefore, the journal accepts 2 types of articles: refereed and general technical. Refereed articles undergo rigorous scientific review and are published with a notation indicating that. General technical articles, although also reviewed, are not held to the same rigorous scientific standards as refereed articles. General technical articles include things like propagation protocols, descriptions of equipment, case studies, new nursery techniques, and so on.

So, what will the first issue look like? Well, it will contain 13 articles. Refereed articles will discuss chilling requirements of eriogonums in Utah, establishing native grasses using herbicides in Kentucky, and a review article on the ecology, conservation, and propagation of an endangered goldenrod in Kentucky. General technical articles include fern propagation at Glacier National Park, prairie plant production in Illinois, propagation protocols for an endangered mallow in Illinois and wiregrass in Florida, using smoke to stimulate germination, nursery production of grass in Oregon, longleaf pine ecology and nursery production in the South, and instructions on how to make a dibble to plant hardwood cuttings.

The fall issue is shaping up as well. It will contain articles dealing with American Indians and how they propagate saguaro cactus, sweetgrass, and wild rice. We will also publish articles dealing with coir as a medium for growing Douglas-fir, harvesting native seeds with a hedge trimmer, oak miniplug production, and information on registering pesticides for specialty plants, among others. All previously published articles will also be in a searchable database on the Internet (<http://www.nativeplantnetwork.org>). You may

use either an author name or key words to search. Articles are available as PDFs for downloading to your computer or printing.

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