

# Use of Certified Seed Suggested For Growing Better Douglas Fir

By J. Clarence Moore  
SEATTLE (AP)—Grow your next crop of Douglas fir only from certified seed.

Farmers are used to hearing such advice about the growing of potatoes or clover. They follow it, too, because better seed means better crops—and more money. Now they're talking of the need for getting the best possible seed for planting Douglas fir stands. They have found it can mean the difference between a poor and a bumper lumber crop.

They also are talking of creating super fir trees through hybridization, mass selection and genetic changes.

**Prosperity Affected**  
The subject is tied up with the prosperity of the Pacific northwest because the forest industry is the region's greatest business. In one way or another it accounts for more than half the total income of people living in the Douglas fir region of Washington and Oregon.

It's also important because two-thirds of the forest area of western Washington and one-third of western Oregon has been cut over or burned. Lumber companies and public agencies have been working on reforestation but it's a big job. By 1946 they had reforested only 150,000 acres out of 3,000,000 acres which need to be replanted.

**Isaac Writes Book**  
The need for getting the best seed for the job is outlined in a new book published by the University of Washington Press. It's written by Leo Isaac, silviculturist of the Pacific northwest range and experiment station of the U.S. forest service. His book, "Better Douglas Fir Forests From Better Seed," collects all information available on the subject.

Forest service studies show that some Douglas fir will grow only at high altitudes and others only at low altitudes. Some stand low winter temperatures and others die. Some like it humid, others relatively dry.

**Conditions Differ**  
Conversely, some seed seems to thrive at both low and high altitudes and under a wide variety of climate conditions.

Another important point is that Douglas fir may be less resistant to disease and insects when grown in an area to which it is unaccustomed. Examples of the various strains of Douglas fir react to climate, the forest service cites results of its own plantings in different locations. The mildest site studied was in the Siuslaw national forest along the Oregon coast at an elevation of 2,000 feet. The most rigorous was at the 4,800-foot level in the high Cascades near Mt. Hood.

**Gates Seed Tested**  
Seed collected at Fortson and Hazel, Wash., fared well on Mt. Hood but the growth rate was poor on the humid coastal Siuslaw plantation. However, seed collected on a humid coast site at Benton, Ore., did well when planted on a similar coast site on the Siuslaw plantation but made the poorest growth of thirteen strains tested on the Mt. Hood plantation.

For an opposite example, mountain stock from Santiam, Ore., made a good showing on Mt. Hood but the poorest showing of all strains on the humid coast Siuslaw plantation.

**System Said Essential**  
As a result of such evidence, Isaac says "some sort of system of seed certification is essential."

He suggests this might be done through the nurseries established under the Clarke-McNary act of 1924. These furnish tree seeds or seedlings at low cost to farmers.

"It may require an act of congress to amend the law," he says, "but this should be done so that Clarke-McNary nurseries could furnish seed for reforestation as well as tree seedlings for farmers."

"They either could do the complete job of collection and sale of seed or provide facilities under which seed collection by private parties could be certified as to place of origin, form of parents, climatic adaptation and per cent of viability (germination)."

**Europe Buys U.S. Seed**  
"Since the job would be handled jointly by state and federal governments through an already established agency, this use of nurseries appears to be the most logical solution of one of the most complicated and vital problems in the American reforestation program."

Western European countries already have set up such compulsory or voluntary control of seed sources. They import much Douglas fir seed because the Douglas is a better lumber producer than their native trees. Many countries are so anxious to secure the best possible seed that they send agents to this country to make the selection on the spot.

Isaac also sees the possibility of improving the northwest's stands of Douglas fir through other methods than seed certification. One is to select seed from the best trees and eliminate use of that from inferior trees.

Isaac, "has produced wonderful changes in flowers and vegetables."

"Although it has not yet produced anything outstanding (in forest trees)," he adds, "this process offers most hope to the forest tree breeder."

However, with regard to mass selection, hybridization and improvement of trees through genetics, Isaac reports:

"Little or no work has been done in most of these fields with Douglas fir even though it is one of the nation's outstanding timber trees."

**Crews Work to Dig Out Frozen North Montana**  
HELENA, Mont., Feb. 4 (AP)—Using all manner of air and ground equipment in the first decent weather of a month, rescue crews worked on a 500-mile front today to dig out and supply frozen northern Montana.

Snowplows and bulldozers bucked mammoth drifts, trying to reach thousands of marooned ranchers and Indians before more snow and cold could snarl relief attempts.

**Food, Clothes Dropped**  
Small planes scouted the vast expanse of glittering snow. A national guard C-47 cargo plane bombed 14,000 pounds of food and clothing to the hard hit Blackfoot Indian reservation just east of Glacier national park.

Moving equipment of all types was thrown into the battle as the state's month long cold spell ended. Temperatures stood above zero for the first time in days in the tier of snowbound counties along the Canadian border. But snow, already falling in western Montana, posed a new threat.

**Trail Broken Open**  
Four large rotary plows finally broke open a trail on one of four main highways leading into the Browning Indian agency town. Indians nearby were reported still short of food, fuel and livestock feed.

State Aeronautics Director Frank Wiley reported the situation among most ranchers—many supplied by air for weeks—is not yet critical in most places. He added that more snow and wind quickly could make the plight of many people and their stock desperate.

State Highway Engineer C. E. Stahl was renting tractors and bulldozers from contractors throughout northern Montana, deploying them in a frantic effort to clear main roads while good weather prevails. Supply-laden trucks stood ready at half a dozen points to move into the 14 counties designated an emergency area by President Truman.

**District Sunday School Convention Held at Marion**  
Statesman News Service  
JEFFERSON—The district Sunday school convention was held at the Marion Friends church despite bad weather.

The Rev. Elvin Fast of Scio Baptist church conducted the opening song service, followed by prayer by Eldon Turnidge of Talbot and special number by the Marion Friends church. Mrs. Harold Grate took the roll call. The young peoples time was directed by Ed Holland of Scio and the Jefferson United Brethren church presented special numbers.

Children's class periods was followed by an address by the Rev. James Neely of Albany, speaking on "China's Orphans Need Christ." The offering for the afternoon will be sent to the China Inland Mission orphanage at Shanghai.

**Silverton Band Group Plans Benefit Show**  
Statesman News Service  
SILVERTON—The Parent Band association is arranging a variety show for Friday, February 24, at the Eugene Field auditorium.

Proceeds will go to the general budget, reports Mrs. Harry Hahn, association secretary. Norman Nagell is president; L. Brandenberg, vice president, and Mrs. S. A. Pinyney, treasurer, of the association organized to assist the local school band. Mrs. Harold Toft is general chairman of the variety show program.

The length of sea slugs ranges from a few inches to two feet, according to the National Geographic Society.



**MUTUAL CONGRATULATIONS**—George Milkan, pro basketballer, and jockey Steve Brooks, Derby winner, shake hands when honored as tops by Sport Magazine, New York.

**C-54 Search Moves to Area Of Smoke Signs**  
WHITEHORSE, Y. T., Feb. 4 (AP)—The search for the missing American air force C-54 transport plane which vanished nine days ago swung 100 miles northwest of here today.

A 15-man trail crew carrying emergency equipment set out for the area, some 15 miles south of the road junction with the Haines, Alaska, cut-off.

Firemen said they were handicapped seriously last night in trying to put out a fire at one house. Meanwhile two Eugene fire companies went to Glenwood to fight that community's third fire of the year. The flames damaged a highway store owned by the Oregon Outfitters of Eugene. Loss was estimated at \$14,000.

**Auburn**—A guest in the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Meir on Osborn street is William Frolick from North Dakota.

**Alert Ordered**  
Coast guard headquarters at both Seattle and San Francisco reported hearing similar signals from the same area, and an alert was ordered for all radio stations and listening posts.

The federal communications commission ruled out one of the signals as due to atmospheric conditions, however. During northern Canadian winters, there are numerous "skips" in radio communication. Messages have been known to be picked up 500 to 1,000 miles away, while being unreadable within a 100 or 200 mile radius.

American and Canadian air officials both spiked a rumor coursing through the northland's "bush telegraph" last night that the missing craft had been located 200.8 miles from Snag, Y. T. Snag is the last radio point to report communications with the missing ship.

**Sublimity Student Enters College Near Olympia**  
Statesman News Service  
SUBLIMITY — Delbert Ditter left recently for Olympia, Wash., where he will enter St. Martins college for the second semester. He plans to major in business administration.

Patricia Ditter, who is attending Maryhurst college in Portland was home recently visiting with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Ditter. She brought with her Keegan of Ashwood, Oregon. Miss Keegan is also a student at Maryhurst college.

# Uncle Sam Plans to Sell Some Of His Federally-Run Cities

By Clarke Beach  
WASHINGTON (AP)—Besides running the nation, Uncle Sam runs a lot of towns.

In communities from the Panama canal zone to Richland, Wash., he is landlord, mayor and dog catcher—everything.

The folks who live in these communities are free to criticize and advise him, but they have no legal authority over their local governments.

Except for that, an Associated Press survey shows that most of them are contented communities. Rents are low because Uncle Sam helps pay the bills. Living conditions are unusually good. Many of the towns were built on a garden city pattern, with curving streets, plenty of trees and parks and wide spaces around them to keep undesirable neighbors from encroaching.

**Many Children Noted**  
All of them are notable for the youthfulness of their population and their extraordinary proportion of children. The average age of residents of atomic energy commission towns is 32. In Greenbelt, Md., one of the three people are children.

Schools are constantly overcrowded in all the towns, and new schools are being planned or constructed.

In most of the towns there is no wealth, no poverty and no slums. Crime rates far below average. Greenbelt had its first and only auto traffic fatality in 1949.

Nearly all the towns have long waiting lists of prospective tenants. Most of the communities are growing, and much new home construction is under way. Many dwellings are temporary, war-built units but are being replaced to provide more livable quarters and to reduce maintenance costs.

**U.S. Sells Towns**  
Uncle Sam is selling all towns he doesn't need. Eventually he hopes to have on his hands only the Canal zone and AEC towns. He must control them for national security reasons.

Here's the general picture of federal towns—speaking only of civilian communities and leaving out the scores of military posts.

First civilian communities to be built and managed by the federal government were in the Panama canal zone. They were begun in 1904. The principal towns are Balboa and Cristobal. Population of all the zone towns is 46,461.

Federal town No. 2 was Norris, Tenn., which was sold in its entirety in 1948 to a Philadelphia real estate company. It was built by the Tennessee valley authority to house construction workers on Norris dam.

Before its sale Norris was run by a manager appointed by TVA, and TVA promulgated town ordinances, ran the police and fire departments and all other services. TVA found the landlord job open enormous headache. Repeatedly it had to rule on a vast number of details, such as new paint for the school or resurfacing the tennis courts.

**New Deal Started It**  
In the 1930s Uncle Sam was

saddled with a batch of new deal communities. They were built largely to provide work for men on relief. They included 31 subsistence homesteads—new farming communities developed of provide land and homes for resettled farm folk. All but a few individual units have now been sold.

The "Greentowns" came in the new deal package too. One of them, Greenhills, O., near Cincinnati, was recently sold to a non-profit cooperative group for \$3,511,300. It cost \$12,000,000. The loss loss was a net loss. The Greentowns have paid operating expenses and some interest on investment, nothing on principle.

The government is now negotiating for the sale of the other two Greentowns—Greenbelt, Md., and Greendale, Wis.

The Greentowns have their own local governments, and Uncle Sam is just the landlord. At Greenbelt all stores and services are run by cooperatives owned by the residents. The bus cooperative gives free rides as dividends about once a month.

# The Statesman, Salem, Oregon, Sunday, February 3, 1950—15

town councils. The one at Richland recently tried its hand at legislating but found it could go only as far as the AEC or the operating company permitted.

One of its ordinances set up the office of dog catcher and made various regulations for the canine population. Nothing came of it, however, because AEC just didn't act.

Another ordinance decreed that garbage collections should be made twice a week, that special cans should be provided etc. The company went along with this, agreeing it was a good idea.

Community spirit is very active. Greendale has 75 organizations, from a village band to a rifle and pistol club.

During the war the government built new communities to house war workers. The biggest was Vanport City, Ore., housed 42,000 persons. It was wiped out by flood in 1948. The largest remaining is Richmond, Calif. Its 16,000 units were quickly thrown up, designed for only a few years' use. Now they are falling apart and are rapidly becoming a slum. The government wants to sell or raze them but can't at this time because housing is so scarce in the vicinity.

The three largest AEC towns are Oak Ridge, Tenn. (pop. 36,000), Richland, Wash. (pop. 20,000) and Los Alamos, N. M. (pop. 9,900). They are not for sale, and all of them are expected to grow for some years.

Local government in them is becoming a bit of a problem. AEC is now trying to figure out some way they can be made self-governing. The trouble is that the government must keep a fairly tight rein for security reasons. (Los Alamos, the weapon factory is still fenced in, although the other towns are now open.)

**Local Laws Tried**  
Also, since they are one-industry towns, and that industry is federal and non-taxable, special arrangements would have to be worked out to make the towns self-supporting. In 1949 they were running at an annual deficit of from \$2,570,474 to \$7,371,906 each, although costs are steadily diminishing.

AEC delegates actual town management to private companies, which supply fire protection and everything else on a cost-plus basis.

All AEC towns have advisory

**SCOUTS PLAN PROGRAM**  
Statesman News Service  
DALLAS — Dallas Boy Scouts will celebrate the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Boy Scouts of America with a covered dish dinner in the dining hall of the First Christian church Wednesday, February 8, at 6:30 p. m. A special program has been planned. Scouts, Cubs, scouters and parents are invited to attend.

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**HELLO FRIENDS**—and all people very very cold some more—some not liking 'get out of house. You like Chinese dish you telephoning me I prepare (new word) I just learn last nite, good huh? You like Chinese dish you like and I send up to your place of living. You having party you call me up I fix you plenty good everybody be happy.  
You want to have party my place fix nice party. Lots people I have big dine room, not so many people I fix nice table in smaller room—treat you okay, you come up you be my friend. You have big party, many friends, you let me know about plenty time ahead—good party take lots work, lots work take lots help, lots help make very fine meal, you see—I don't tell you lie I very sincerely about cook good healthful food. You come up my place on North Commercial Street close to State Street—you find out.  
YEE SING  
(that's my name, sure) T.R.

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HELLO FRIENDS—and all people very very cold some more—some not liking 'get out of house. You like Chinese dish you telephoning me I prepare (new word) I just learn last nite, good huh? You like Chinese dish you like and I send up to your place of living. You having party you call me up I fix you plenty good everybody be happy.  
You want to have party my place fix nice party. Lots people I have big dine room, not so many people I fix nice table in smaller room—treat you okay, you come up you be my friend. You have big party, many friends, you let me know about plenty time ahead—good party take lots work, lots work take lots help, lots help make very fine meal, you see—I don't tell you lie I very sincerely about cook good healthful food. You come up my place on North Commercial Street close to State Street—you find out.  
YEE SING  
(that's my name, sure) T.R.