



News Release

For Immediate Release

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Virginians Can Begin Ordering Tree Seedlings on November 1

The Virginia Department of Forestry's (VDof) online tree seedling store is expected to open Thursday, November 1, at 10 a.m. Orders may be placed online at buyvatrees.com, or by calling the Augusta Forestry Center at 540-363-7000. If the online store opening is delayed, orders will still be accepted by phone beginning November 1.

"We grew and sold more than 30 million tree seedlings last year," said Forestry Centers Manager Josh Bennicoff. "We expect demand to remain strong – so much so, that it's likely some varieties of our loblolly pine seedlings may sell out early."

The best seller and the foundation of the nursery program is loblolly pine. This species is planted on a wide range of sites east of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Virginia and offers a great investment for private landowners. VDof's control pollinated seedlings can grow up to 90 percent faster than a wild loblolly pine tree. However, the range is from 50-90 percent of improved growth, based on the variety of seedlings chosen.

In addition to loblolly pine seedlings, VDof nurseries offer over 50 other species of tree seedlings for sale to Virginia landowners. These other species include dogwood, apple, bald cypress, maples, white pine and several species of oaks. There are also several specialty seedling packs that are designed for specific uses, such as riparian buffer establishment, wildlife habitat enhancement, quail management and a "pollinator pack," which provides a good mix of tree species known for producing an abundance of food for Virginia's native pollinators.

Payment for tree seedlings must be made at the time of purchase. If placing an order by phone or online, credit card is the only accepted method of payment. Walk-in orders may be paid with credit card, check or money order.

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Tax-exempt orders must be placed over the phone or in person, and a fully completed ST-18 form must be provided before the tax-exempt order is placed. Bennicoff recommends having the form filled out in advance and mailed/faxed to one of the nurseries to avoid delays.

“If you would like to browse our seedling catalog prior to the store opening, it can be found on our website at www.dof.virginia.gov, or you can access the link on our Facebook page ‘Virginia State Nurseries,’” said Bennicoff. “We look forward to serving you during another successful planting season.”

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The Virginia Department of Forestry protects and develops healthy, sustainable forest resources for Virginians. With nearly 16 million acres of forestland and more than 108,000 Virginians employed in forestry, forest products and related industries, Virginia forests provide an overall economic output of more than \$21 Billion annually.

Headquartered in Charlottesville, the Agency has forestry staff members assigned to every county to provide citizen service and public safety protection across the Commonwealth, which it’s been doing now for more than 100 years. VDOF is an equal opportunity provider.