

How Does Reforestation Work?

Reforestation – Good for Forests Good for Forest Owners

When trees are harvested, forests are renewed through reforestation and a new forest cycle begins. Planting trees keeps forests growing and makes good business sense. Rules of the Idaho Forest Practices Act require reforestation after harvest. Every harvested acre must be successfully reforested within five years of harvest with a minimum number of seedlings growing per acre. The Idaho Department of Lands checks compliance through frequent inspections.

Hand Planting

Landowners usually hand plant within a few months of harvest. Several nurseries in Idaho provide a variety of tree species as planting stock to serve forest landowners' reforestation needs and management objectives. Seeds are collected from areas similar in climate and elevation and then grown for a year in containers in greenhouses or in open fields before being "lifted" from the soil and transported for planting in the forest. Landowners often plant more than one species, but nature generally assures a diversity of species.

Planters often use a "hoedad" to plant seedlings.



Seeds and Seedlings



Planting



8 years growth

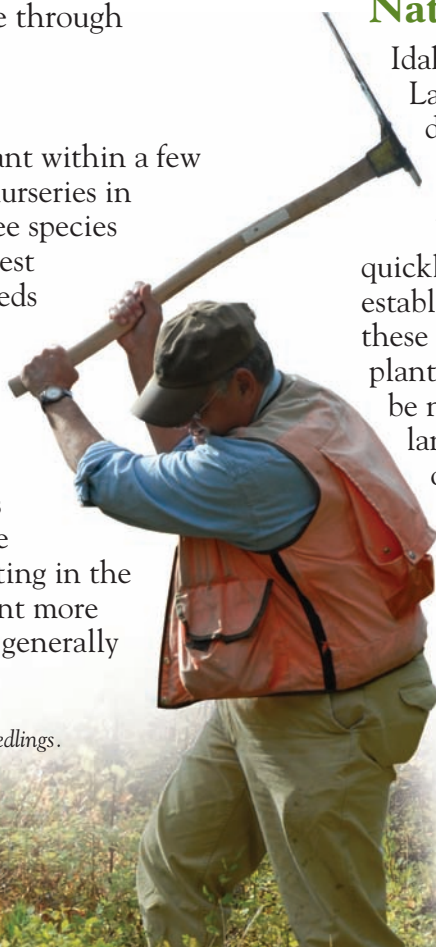
Natural Regeneration

Idaho's forests are fertile and prolific.

Landowners sometimes rely on nature to disperse seed in harvested areas where abundant sunshine reaches the ground.

Tree seeds carried by birds and wind quickly germinate and establish seedlings in these sunny areas. Hand planting may still be needed to meet landowner objectives or the required number of seedlings per acre.

Trees are always growing in Idaho where working forests have been harvested and replanted since statehood.



Learn more at www.idahoforests.org