



Charles Zimmerman, Bill Boyd, Sam Hopkins, Tim Parker, Shannon Stewart (holding seedling), Rick Hoffman and Ken Turner examining pine seedling.

Seedlings for New Tree Farm Planting Strategies

The Tyler County Forest Landowners Association members learned new production techniques for pine tree seeds while touring a tree nursery in neighboring Polk County on Saturday, January 5, 2008. The group toured fields of slash and loblolly seedlings that were ready for lifting – as soon as the seedlings experience 400 hours of chilling (32-45 degrees) to reach the required dormancy. December’s warm weather reduced the number of seedlings that could be lifted and boxed for delivery to tree farmers.

Shannon Stewart, manager of the Super Tree Nursery, explained that cones on trees, which are maintained for seed production, are covered with paper bags that are injected with pollen from select trees. Once the pinecone matures, the seeds are harvested and planted in fields prepared for growth, pruning and eventual lifting of the seedlings. Financial models show that planting the best seedlings can double and even triple profits yielded from a tree farm.