



## News Release

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### **GFC SEEDLING SALES BRISK FOR PLANTING SEASON**

Georgians love trees for many environmental, aesthetic and economic reasons, which is why planting season is eagerly anticipated every year. The Georgia Forestry Commission (GFC) has begun accepting orders for its wide variety of softwood and hardwood seedlings, which have been cultured to provide a fibrous root system, large stem diameter, and abundant energy reserves to insure the best possible survival and growth. "Sales are already brisk," said Jeff Fields, Reforestation Chief for the Georgia Forestry Commission. "Whether you're looking for pines with specific characteristics such as straightness and rust-resistance, or hardwoods perfect for wildlife and beauty, we've got the varieties people want at an excellent value."

Georgia's traditional planting season for pines is December through February, but cool, wet weather can extend those dates by several weeks in either direction. Hardwoods should be planted in January and February. The GFC will continue taking orders for seedlings until inventories are exhausted or the planting season has ended. All Georgia Forestry Commission tree seedlings are adapted to Georgia's unique climate and soils. The seedlings are sold as bare-root and should be planted as soon as possible. Until planting, the seedlings should be kept cool and damp, with good air circulation, while protected from heat, freezing, and drying conditions.

Private and non-industrial tree farmers have been reporting great success with the fast growing loblolly mix known as the Georgia Giant, which produces 54% more volume per acre at age six. The Select Piedmont 3rd Cycle and Elite Straight Loblolly are also very popular. In addition, many hardwood varieties, such as crabapple, persimmon, crepe myrtle and oaks tend to sell out early, so GFC urges buyers to reserve their desired species as soon as possible.

"We do have discounts available for large orders," said Fields, "so it's a great idea for neighbors and fellow landowners to get together and look at our price list."

To download an order form, or for more information about tree planting and services of the Georgia Forestry Commission, visit [GaTrees.org](http://GaTrees.org). Landowners seeking information about seedlings may also contact their local GFC office the Flint River Nursery at 229-268-7308.

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