

ce: 4100 NASA
INSTITUTE OF FOREST GENETICS
2480 Carson Road
Placerville, California 95667

1620 Programs, Cooperative
(4100)

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Moon Trees Project

Stanley L. Krugman, Principal Research Forest Geneticist
JHR
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Per your request of September 10, 1976, I have summarized the Institute's involvement in the Moon Tree Project. In addition to specific items that you requested, I am including additional details which may be of interest.

On June 10, 1972, Ron Dinius (4100, 7/10/72) sent Jim King two packets of seed, one containing Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) and the other containing coast redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*). The seeds were immediately placed in 30 day stratification, germinated in petri dishes and sown directly in standard IFG soil mix. The identity of the seeds, in accordance with NASA instructions, was kept "top secret."

After the Washington Office made a press release on the seedlings, we received press coverage from local and state newspapers and northern California TV.

In general, the Moon Tree Project went off without a hitch due in large part to careful preplanning and organization in the Washington Office. Only two states, Maine and Minnesota, did not request their allotted seedlings, which is probably just as well. The douglas-fir strain[s] we had would probably have not survived the cold harsh winters of these states. About half the seedlings we shipped went via U.S. mail, and others by greyhound or air freight collect.

We know the source of the coast redwood; it was collected by Carl Fowler from near his home at Sequel, California. The Douglas-fir was either from Benton County, Oregon, or El Dorado County, California, or a mixture of both. NASA apparently did not keep separate, or at least did not maintain the identity of, the two Douglas-fir seed lots.

The attached summary tables give the distribution of the trees and some of the salient information on how the seed was handled.

LEROY C. JOHNSON
Manager, Institute of Forest Genetics

cc: King

LCJohnson@uc