**Nursery Pruning**

**1.** Duryea, M.L. and S.K. Omi. 1987. Top pruning Douglas-fir seedlings: morphology, physiology, and field performance. Canadian-Journal-of-Forest-Research 17(11): 1371-1378.

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**Abstract:** Seedlings from 9 seed sources at 6 nurseries in Washington, Oregon and California were treated with various pruning treatments including tall and short ht. (25 and 15 cm, respectively), early and late timing (6 wk after bud burst or 6 wk after bud set, respectively), pruning twice or no pruning. Seedlings were evaluated for phenology and quality, and graded in the nursery. For each seed source, seedlings were planted at field sites in their own zone and on one common site. Seedlings pruned tall and early began growing again within 5 wk and set buds 2 wk later than unpruned seedlings. Shippable yield of seedlings pruned tall and early and of unpruned seedlings were n.s.d, although more pruned seedlings had multiple leaders. Pruned seedlings were smaller than unpruned seedlings at the time of planting. Survival and growth were the same for pruned and unpruned seedlings in the 1st year after planting. Pruned seedlings grew more than unpruned seedlings in the 2nd year, but were still shorter after 2 yr. Field growth was greater in seedlings pruned tall or early than in seedlings pruned short or late. It is concluded that pruning should be continued as a cultural practice if it benefits nurseries, but that late short pruning should be avoided.

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