

Ornamental plant production in forest nursery in Turkey

Nevzat Gürlevik^{1,*}, Mehmet Pekköz²

¹ Faculty of Forestry, Süleyman Demirel University, 32260 Isparta, Turkey

² Graduate School of Natural and Applied Sciences, Süleyman Demirel University, 32260, Isparta, Turkey

* Corresponding author: nevzatgurlevik@sdu.edu.tr

Abstract: In Turkey, there are totally 37 state forest nursery directorates and 93 nurseries affiliated to them. These nurseries operate to meet the seedling needs of many parts of the society, on the local and national level. In recent years, the amount of seedlings produced in these nurseries has increased rapidly, reaching 509 million in 2011. Common forest tree species such as cedar, pines and black locust account for up to 70 % of the total seedlings production. Besides these species, significant amounts of ornamental plants are also produced and take place in the national market. The majority of the ornamental plants are woody perennials such as cypress, oriental arborvitae, privet, blue spruce, catalpa, honey locust, bead tree, Japanese pagoda tree, firethorn, golden raintree, barberry, rose of Sharon, "silk tree and crape myrtle. In this respect, forest nurseries offer wide product range and play an important role in ornamental plant production in local markets. However, the forest nurseries' active role in the ornamental plant sector can have both positive and negative effects on the private sector. On one hand, they can share know-how with local investors and create driving force in the market. On the other hand, they can have a lower price policy and create unfair competition for private investors, since they already have existing infrastructure and trained staff for plant production. For this reason, keeping ornamental plant production at the minimum levels in the forest nurseries is extremely important in areas where the private sector is already developing, so that these state agencies do not diminish the opportunities of the private sector enterprises.

Keyword: Forest trees, Ornamentals, Nursery, Private enterprise