

## 1. Cone Survey (June – July)

CAL FIRE Foresters identify areas where conifer cone crops are present in a large stand of trees. They report that information to CAL FIRE's LAMRC staff for follow-up.

## 2. Cone Sampling and Cone Collection (August – September)

Cones and seeds from potential cone crops identified from surveys are sampled to test for seed quality prior to collection. If cones and seeds meet LAMRC standards, a cone collection will occur. Once collected, conifer crops are delivered to LAMRC for processing.

## 3. Cone Processing and Seed Extraction (October – February)

Seed processing begins by drying out the cone crop and breaking apart the cones with a large tumbler to extract the seed. The seeds are then separated from other debris and lab tested to obtain important information necessary for successful sowing before being placed into cold storage, also known as the Seed Bank.

## 4. Seed Storage

Once seeds are tested, they are packaged, labeled, and placed in the Seed Bank, a 0°F freezer used for long-term storage.

## 5. Seedling and Seed Orders

Landowners reach out to the Reforestation Center to place a seedling or seed order. LAMRC staff identify the appropriate seed lots matching the landowner's planting site to ensure seedlings will be well-adapted for growing in that location.

## 6. Seedling Stratification (November – January)

After seeds are weighed out, they are soaked in water for 1 – 2 days and placed in 35°F cold storage to begin the stratification process. Stratification breaks the seed's dormancy and simulates conditions the seeds experience in nature.



## 10. Planting (Winter – Spring)

When landowners receive their seedlings, they are planted in the field, usually in areas affected by a wildfire. However, some customers plant conifer seedlings for other purposes such as pest control, wind breaks, and landscaping. Who knows, maybe these seedlings will become a seed source one day!

## 9. Lifting (December)

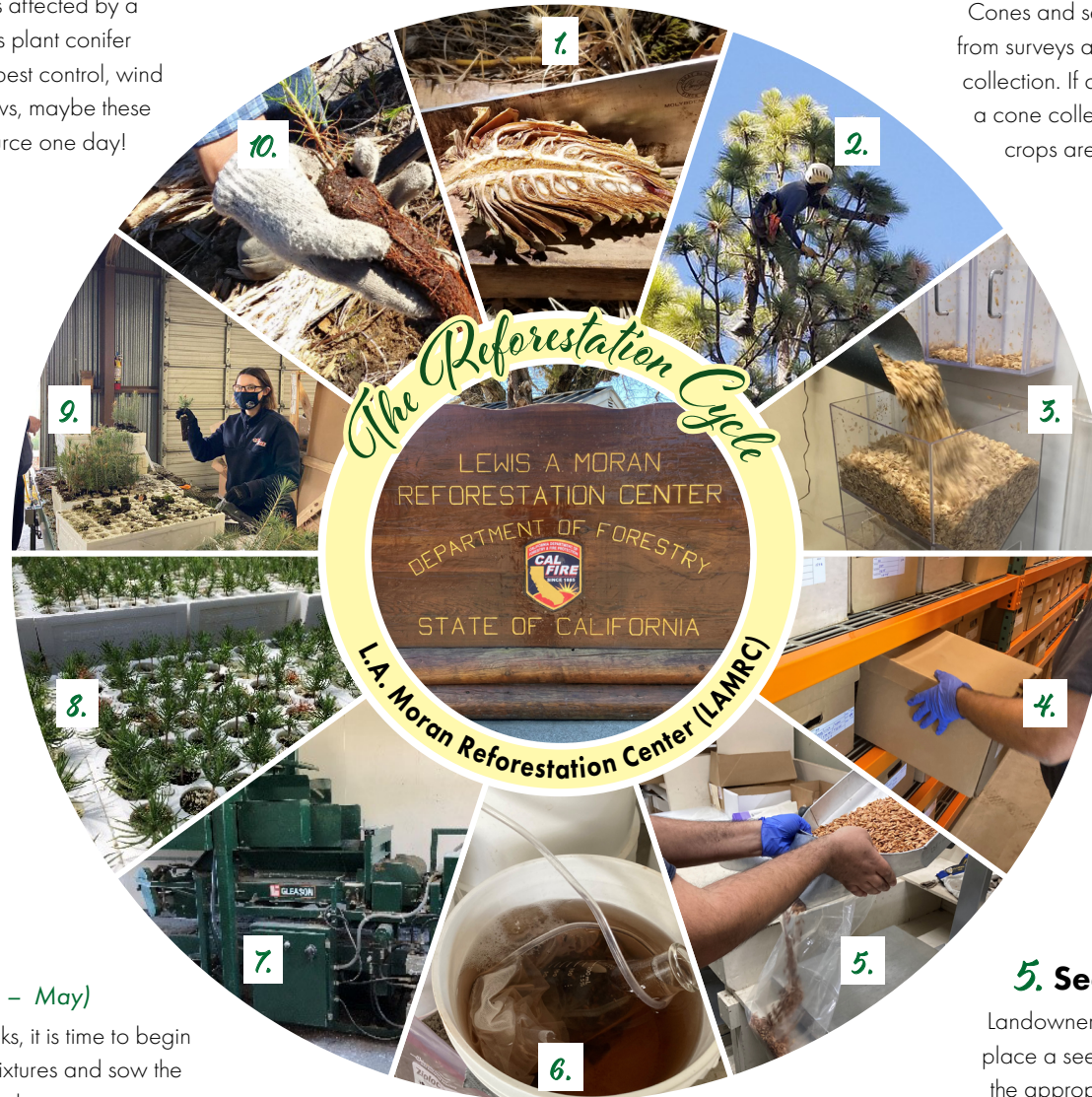
Once the proper size is reached, seedlings are lifted out of the Styrofoam containers, graded for quality, and packed into boxes. The seedlings are placed in cold storage for 1 – 3 months until they are picked up by the landowners who ordered them.

## 8. Growing (March – November)

Once the seeds have sprouted, they are moved to a covered outdoor growing area called a shade house. It takes 6 – 8 months for the seedlings to grow to the ideal height of 10". During that time, seedlings are watered, fertilized, monitored for pests and diseases, and trimmed as necessary.

## 7. Sowing (February – May)

After the seeds stratify for 7 – 16 weeks, it is time to begin sowing. LAMRC staff prepare soil mixtures and sow the seeds in Styrofoam containers. Once the containers are labeled, they are placed in a greenhouse, where they will grow for the next 6 – 8 months.



*The Reforestation Cycle*  
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