



As a specialist at the Nation's oldest Federal tree nursery, I contribute to forest restoration by annually cultivating 2.7 million trees, 1 million bareroot seedlings, and 1.7 million container seedlings. These are distributed to national forests for reforestation and to conservation districts for windbreaks and habitat plantings.

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Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



FOREST
INSPIRED
NATURE
DISCOVERY

Richard Gilbert

Biological Scientist, Nursery Manager

Forest Service
Career Pathways



What advice do you have for students interested in your job?

Working in a nursery setting is a wonderful thing. Your job changes throughout the year, and it is so rewarding to see the plants you produce. There is no better job than having your hands in dirt and working with customers with the same passion.

What is an example of a question you have tried to answer in your job? How does such a big tree come from such a small seed?

What is an example of technology or equipment that you use in your work? Seed planting equipment is so critical for nursery production. The pneumatic seeder we use for container production helps us with accuracy and efficiency.

What has been your most exciting project?

Greenhouse expansions have been the most exciting and rewarding projects I have worked on. With the addition of every greenhouse, we increase our production area and can supply more seedlings to forests and other areas.

When did you know this career would be a good fit for you? My first memory of being interested in plants is working with my parents in the garden. You get to eat what you grow; fresh from the garden is the best. I can still hear my parents telling me to stop eating the peas and strawberries.

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