



MAYBERRY NATIVE PLANT PROPAGATION CENTER

Background and Purpose

In 2008 Rim to Rim Restoration, a small 501c3 organization, submitted a proposal to the Nature Conservancy to purchase the 30 acre orchard portion of the Mayberry Preserve to house a native plant propagation center to grow seeds and potted plants sourced from the Upper Colorado Plateau. Colorado Plateau sourced plant materials are not widely available, but there are numerous revegetation and restoration efforts on the Plateau that would benefit from regionally and locally sourced plant materials.

Rim to Rim partnered with Wildland Scapes to operate the containerized plant propagation efforts on a small portion of the property. Ownership of the facility, separated from plant production, allows each entity to focus on what it does best. Wildland Scapes is uniquely qualified to raise locally sourced native plants and has experience with managing employees, working with plant customers, and operating a facility. Rim to Rim is experienced with fund raising, linking with other projects and organizations, and revegetation planning and management. The Mayberry Native Plant Propagation Center facility can provide space and resources to other organizations, individuals and agencies for research and additional propagation work including experimental plots for weed control, seed production and other projects.

The Mayberry Plant Propagation Center is located on a small portion of the entire property owned by the Nature Conservancy. The conservation easement on the Propagation Center property is held and monitored by the Nature Conservancy and allows for agricultural use of the property only.

Infrastructure Installation Timeline (not a fast process!)

2009 – present	Russian knapweed control on heavily infested 12 acres (95% complete)
2010	Removed dead fruit trees
2011	Built a shed for storage and facilities maintenance
2012	Drilled wells to access clean river water for irrigation
2013	Installed irrigation mainline to service entire property
2014	Installed solar power & hooked up electricity to the pumps (1600' away)
2013 – 2015	Installed seed producing shelter belts
2015	Tested irrigation systems, weed control & plant maintenance
2016	Fence built around enclosure for containerized production area

In the future, two small greenhouses are planned to accommodate seed and cuttings propagation. These greenhouses will be small by industry standards in order to allow for passive solar as the primary heat source (a little like the greenhouse at the Youth Garden Project in Moab).



Rim to Rim is actively seeking funding for these greenhouses with the intention to build them in the next three years. Rim to Rim Restoration is very excited with everything accomplished at the Mayberry Propagation Center so far, and is looking forward to being able to provide locally sourced plants to agencies and organizations as well as providing space for other projects and services.



Seed Producing Windbreaks and Shelterbelts

Starting in September 2013 and through the summer of 2014, 932 trees and shrubs sourced from the Escalante River Watershed, Dolores River Watershed, and the Moab area were planted in seed production rows. Plants were placed in rows to allow for ease of seed harvest in future, as well as to screen the property from the roadway and reduce windblown erosion. Various container and plant sizes were used and recorded and survival and growth rates will be compared over the years. To date, plants have been watered once a week in summer, and less often in spring and fall. In 2016 survival and growth will be recorded and replacement plants installed where survival was poor.



Plant Common Name	Code	Source	TOTAL PLANTED		
			Long-stem	#1 pot	tube/cone
Cottonwood	POFR	Matheson wetlands	0	0	0
Cottonwood	POFR	Deer Creek, Boulder UT	19	0	0
Netleaf Hackberry	CERE	Moki Canyon	5	15	0
Box Elder	ACNE	Castle Valley	27	0	0
River/Waterbirch	BENI	Mill Creek, Moab	24	0	0
Goodings Willow	SAGO	Matheson wetlands	12	0	0
Single leaf Ash	FRAN	Moab, Beckstrand	0	20	0
NM Privet	FONE	Roberts Bottom	78	0	93
Silverleaf Buffalo Berry	SHAR	Deer Creek, Boulder UT	0	70	0
Cliff Fendlerbush	FERU	Moab/nr Dewey	0	16	0
Three leaf sumac	RHTR	Mill Creek, Moab	113	22	94
Grow low sumac	RHAR GL	cultivar	0	20	0
Golden Currant	RIAU	Mill Creek, Moab	0	29	10
Woods Rose	ROWO	Mill Creek, Moab	0	22	0
Little Leaf Mock Orange	PHMI	Moab/nr Dewey	0	19	0
Desert holly	MAFR	Roberts Bottom	0	19	36
Curl Leaf Mahogany	CELE	Moab/JD Norman	0	20	0
Cliffrose	PUME	Moab	0	20	0
Fourwing Saltbush	ATCA	Dolores (SW Seed)	0	52	0
Threadleaf Sage	ARFI	Navajo Ridge Moab	0	28	0
Big Sage	ARTR	Mill Creek Drive, Moab	0	49	0
TOTAL # OF PLANTS by	container		278	421	233

What's Next?

Future plans include yellow bee plant seed increase as well as experimenting with other native annuals (including clammyweed) that might be useful for revegetation needs, especially to compete with annual exotic plants in revegetation settings. We also plan to experiment with direct seeding new mexican privet in small locations as an alternative to hauling containerized materials to remote sites. We also have been experimenting with different strategies to reduce and control annual exotic species over time.

Forb seed production zones will also be established near and within the tree and shrub belts, along with a small demonstration pollinator garden. Forbs to be grown for seed include, but are not limited to, rimrock buckwheat, rough mules ears, and various penstemons. Beekeeping efforts in the region could capitalize on the location of the property to isolate bee hives or raise queens.

