

Field trip report

Time: 20th - 21st September 2016
Participants: Antti Länneppää, Fin Forelia
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Places visited: Skogforsk, Ekebo
Södra Skogsplantor, Falkenberg
Nordgen conference, Växjö
BCC, Landskrona

Our main objective for the trip was to see the production of a Swedish forest nursery. We were also interested in all the practical detail about making seedlings and planting them into the forest.

The first visit to Skogforsk research station gave us some ground information about a variety of matters. There were a lot of interesting detail but very little that had to do with industrial scale seedling production.

The visit to Södras nursery in Falkenberg was the opposite. We saw what we had wished for. The production was in the same proportion as ours and it was easy to compare to our own actions.

One of the biggest observations was that the nursery used copper treated trays to grow their seedlings. We knew that in Finland copper treated paper pots had been used some decades ago, but we had no idea that copper treatment was still in use. Due to the treatment the root system of the seedlings was quite different compared to the ones grown in open design containers. Almost all roots where fine roots and the bigger roots where missing. We had a very thorough conversation what this could mean to the adaptation in the forest and could this type of treatment work in Finland. The other really interesting thing was Södras own pine weevil protection, Cambiguard. In Finland we only have started the conversation about nontoxic plant protection. We were aware of Conniflex and where surprised that there are other widely used protections as well.

The conference in Växjö was interesting and we got to meet lots of new people. Because of the theme this year we got little direct knowledge concerning seedlings. For us the most interesting part was the field day, where we saw different kind of seedlings and species. The most memorable sight was the spruce seedlings with a lot of after growth. Something you can't find in Finland.

The last stop of our trip was BCC headquarters in Landskrona. We have been doing co-operation for many years but newer visited them. We discussed some unfinished business and had a tour in the factory.

As a whole I think the objectives, that where very practical, where met. We saw something we were not prepared for. We got some new ideas and a lot to think about in our own actions. It is always good to see the grass on the other side of the fence!