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Grafton nursery record 2.3m seedlings to be planted

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A record 2.3 million seedlings will be sent out the gates of Forestry Corporation's Grafton Production Nursery this month to replant the region's timber plantations. Member for Clarence Chris Gulaptis said the NSW Government remains committed to the future of forestry in the region. Source: Timberbiz

"The team at Grafton Production Nursery has done a terrific job of growing over two million seedlings which will assist in securing the future of the timber industry in NSW," Mr Gulaptis said.

"Timber grown right here in the Clarence electorate plays a vital role in supplying the materials used to build homes and infrastructure right across NSW and I am proud of the work we are doing locally to keep the industry alive."

Forestry Corporation of NSW's Grafton Nursery Manager Kath French said the seedlings dispatched this year would regrow the timber plantations that have been harvested in the past year.

"Each of these 2.3 million seedlings was individually sown here at our Grafton Production Nursery back in September from a carefully selected seed, and we have spent the past six months carefully watering, weeding and fertilising this crop," Ms French said.

"Throughout April, the 12-person team at Grafton Production Nursery will be sorting and grading the seedlings to ensure only the hardiest seedlings are sent out the gate to our plantations.

"Each of these seedlings will be planted by hand by a team of planters to regrow our timber plantations, with the 2.3 million seedlings from Grafton restocking more than 2000 hectares

of hardwood and softwood plantations on the north coast – an area almost twice the size of the town of Grafton.

“Once in the ground, these seedlings will be grown for around 35 years to supply renewable timber for the next generation’s homes and infrastructure, so it’s vital that we only send the seedlings with the best chance of survival.

“The seedlings we have grown this year are an even mix of pine and eucalyptus species, to restock both softwood and hardwood plantations throughout the region.

“The nursery also grows large numbers of seedlings for private customers with large orders.

“This is the largest seedling crop our Grafton team has managed to date, as the impacts of drought and fire in 2018 required us to double production of southern pine.

“Following this summer’s fires, we are preparing to double the nursery’s output next year to replant affected plantations, allowing our production teams time to harvest affected timber and prepare the sites for planting in 2021 so we can replant and regrow all the burnt plantations with renewable timber.

“Forestry is a long term-industry and every time we sow a seed here at Grafton Production Nursery we planning more than 30 years into the future for when that seed will become an essential timber product for the next generation.”

Source: <https://www.timberbiz.com.au/grafton-nursery-record-2-3m-seedlings-to-be-planted/>