

A person wearing a blue hoodie and dark pants is walking away from the camera down a central grassy path in a tree nursery. The nursery is filled with rows of young trees, each supported by a wooden stake and a wire cage, planted in black plastic mulch. In the background, a dense forest of tall evergreen trees covers a mountain slope, with white mist or fog partially obscuring the upper parts of the forest. The sky is overcast with grey clouds.

A Guide To

REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE

From The Perspective of a BC Tree Nursery

www.psnursery.com

"A sustainable farm is non-existent. A farm more sustainable than it was 5 years ago? That's absolutely possible."

- David Granastein

REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE:
/rəˈjɛn(ə)rədɪv ˈagrəkəlCHər/
A holistic approach to farming that focuses on replenishing nutrients and biology and enhancing a landscape's natural ecosystem.

Introduction

For generations, not much has changed in the tree growing industry. Conventional agriculture practices have been used for decades despite the fact that they have proven to be unsustainable.

Over the years, we have challenged the status quo by making bold, science-led changes to our growing practices. Time and time again this has led us in the same direction:

Regenerative agriculture.

Regenerative agriculture is an approach to growing that focuses on replenishing nutrients and enhancing the land's natural ecosystems.

We believe that regenerative agriculture is the answer to two of the industry's biggest challenges: i) **sustainability** and ii) **\$\$**

This guide walks you through our personal journey of embracing regenerative agriculture practices and what's worked best for us.

It started with a change in **perspective**, which transformed our **principles** and resulted in **practices** that have changed our farm, created a safer working environment and saved us money in the process.

Our growth model

perspective + principles = practices

old method

new method

Perspective

- Industrial agriculture
- Monoculture
- Pesticides/fungicides
- Manipulation of plants
- Reactive
- Standard nursery practices

Principles

- Soil test as a media, not as a living ecosystem
- Fertilization based on soil testing
- Nitrogen, Phosphorous, Potassium (chemical/petroleum based additions)
- Reactive to pest pressures
- Disconnect from tree health

Practices

- Fungicides every two weeks
- Reactive pesticides to control/clean
- Tilling
- Herbicides, kill all weeds
- Mowing for aesthetics
- Integrated Pest Management

Perspective

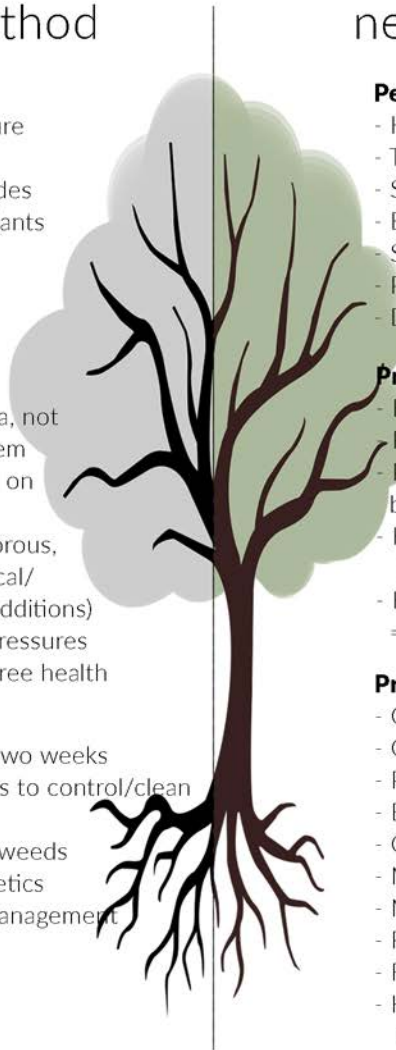
- Holistic
- Tree immune response
- Soil health
- Balanced nutrition
- Soil organic matter
- Proactive
- Diversity

Principles

- Balanced photosynthesis
- Regenerative core concepts
- Plant growth promotes bacteria & fungi
- Healthy soil biome creates humus
- Healthy plants = Healthy soil = healthy plants

Practices

- Composting
- Cover crops with purpose
- Plant sap analysis
- Biostimulants
- Organic nutrients
- Mulching
- Mow & blow
- Rolling
- Fall residual treatments
- Habitats for beneficial insects
- Plant Health Management



Perspective

Regenerative agriculture has inspired a change in our pest management and we are looking at it from a completely different perspective which is why we renamed our IPM Department to the Plant Health Department.

Old Perspective

- Quick growth is key
- Chemicals solve problems
- Unnatural manipulation of plants
- Reactive

New Perspective

- Holistic ecosystems
- Proper nutrition creates a high immune response to fight pests & disease
- Less chemicals

Regenerative agriculture requires a holistic, nutrient-based perspective for pest management as opposed to a treat-the-problem-after-it-arises, chemical perspective.

*regenerative agriculture
= healthier tree at
same or lesser cost.*

Regenerative agriculture results in a **healthier tree at an equivalent or lesser cost** than traditional, chemical-heavy, growing practices.

PERSPECTIVE
/pər'spektiv/

A particular attitude toward or way of regarding something; a point of view.

PRINCIPLE
/'prinsəpəl/

A fundamental truth that serves as the foundation for a system of belief or behaviour.



Principles

We believe in regenerative agriculture because of trail blazers like John Kempff and Graeme Sait who's scientific research has encouraged us to explore the benefits of this for ourselves in a horticultural setting.

We have experienced immense gains in the health of our trees and have **reduced chemical costs by over 50%** through numerous multi-year trials on our soil, our plants and the natural biology we have on the nursery.

Old Principles

- Plant health is dependent on chemicals and growth additives (i.e. Fertilization based on soil testing, NPK)

New Principles

- Plant health is dependent on the cultivation of a healthy ecosystem that gives back to the land (i.e. adding nutrients, photosynthesis, mychorrizae)

Practices

There have been many changes at Purple Springs Nursery over the years, but the biggest thing we've learned is that **regenerative agriculture is a transitional journey.**

We're not the experts but we are passionate about the subject!

And we want you to join us.

Here are some of the changes we've made to our practices:

Old Practices

- Fungicides every 2 weeks
- Use of pesticides to control and clean
- Tilling
- Herbicides, kill all weeds
- Mowing for aesthetics

New Practices

- Composting
- Focus on completed photosynthesis
- Root pruning
- Plant sap analysis
- Mow and blow
- Biostimulants
- Organic nutrients
- Mulching
- Rolling
- Habitats for beneficial insects



Want to Know More?



www.psnursery.com/blog/



@purplespringsnursery



@purplespringsnursery

www.psnursery.com
info@psnursery.com
1-877-289-3813