



# Protecting Alabama's Seedling Production Industry

## Impact Statement

### **The Problem/Issue:**

The long term ecological and economic sustainability of Alabama's forest resources depends on the successful regeneration of harvested sites. Seedlings used for reforestation and afforestation in Alabama are produced in specialized forest tree nurseries. In fact, the South produces about 80 percent of all the tree seedlings in the United States. But successful production has been challenged by recent changes in the availability of certain pest control materials.

### **What's Been Done:**

In 2003, the Alabama Cooperative Extension System was instrumental in regional programs to help nursery managers economically produce healthy and vigorous planting stock. Extension led the regional struggle for the continued availability of important pest control compounds used for seedling production. Working with officials in five states, 24(c) labels (local use labels) were obtained for a new nursery herbicide. In addition, a critical use exemption for the continued availability of methyl bromide as a soil fumigant in tree nurseries was forwarded to the Environmental Protection Agency on behalf of all tree nurseries in the South. After EPA approval, nominations are forwarded by the U.S. government to an international committee for final review and approval. In addition, several regional continuing education opportunities were provided to nursery managers including a 3-day nursery science meeting, biannual newsletters and eight research reports.

### **Why We Care:**

Extension's proactive role is helping protect and sustain a significant industry in Alabama and the region.