Forest Nursery Seedling Production in the United States— Fiscal Year 2014

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Background

This annual report summarizes forest nursery seedling production in the United States. The number of seedlings reported is used to estimate the number of acres of forest planting per year. Prepared by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Forest Service, Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) and State and Private Forestry (S&PF), this report includes State-by-State breakdowns, regional totals, and an analysis of data trends. Universities located in the southern, northeast, and western regions of the United States made an effort to collect data from all the major producers of forest and conservation seedlings in the 50 States. Forest and conservation nursery managers provided the information presented in this report. As far as we know, it is the most complete compilation of such data in the country. Because all data are provided voluntarily by outside sources and some data are estimated, however, caution must be used in drawing inferences.

Methodology

The empirical data for this report were produced by S&PF in collaboration with Auburn University, the University of Idaho, and Purdue University. All of these universities collected forest tree seedling production data directly from the forest and conservation nurseries that grow forest tree seedlings in their region of the United States (Auburn University collected from 12 States in the Southeast, the University of Idaho collected from 17 States in the West, and Purdue University collected from 21 States in the Northeast and Midwest). The approximation of planted acres for each State is derived from FIA estimates of tree planting area based on ground plots collected by States during 5-, 7-, or 10-year periods and compiled as an average annual estimate for the associated period. FIA estimates of acres of trees planted by State may not correlate with the estimates produced by nursery production surveys because nurseries do not report shipments across State lines. Total acres by region, however, provide a reasonable comparison between the two methods. Data collected are reported by hardwood and conifer seedlings produced and acreage planted of each (table 1) and by bareroot and container seedlings produced (table 2). A complete list of the assumptions used in compiling this report appears in the Forest Nursery Seedling Production in the United States—Fiscal Year 2013 (Harper et. al. 2014).

28 Tree Planters' Notes

Table 1. Hardwood and conifer tree seedling production and acres planted for each State and each region during the 2013–2014 planting year.

Produced Planted Produced Imports Southeast	State s	Hardwood seedlings	Hardwood acres	Conifer seedlings	Canadian conifer	Conifer acres	Total seedlings	Total acres	FIA data acres
Floridas*	p	produced	planted	produced		planted ¹	produced	planted ¹	planted12
Borgana					Southeast				
North Carolina* 576,800 1,049 72,223,000 — 131,315 72,798,800 122,382 South Carolina* 3,950,420 7,183 119,182,430 — 216,695 123,132,850 23,372,850 Alegional totals 15,556,720 28,285 577,010,230 — 1,049,110 592,566,950 1,077,394 Alabama* 483,500 879 117,530,500 — 213,692 118,014,000 214,571 Alabama* 483,500 879 117,530,500 — 185,810 111,148,200 220,579 Alabama* 9,222,700 16,769 102,195,500 — 185,810 111,148,200 220,579 Alabama* 1,771,700 3,221 12,731,000 — 23,147 14,502,700 26,369 Alabama* 1,771,700 3,221 12,731,000 — 23,147 14,502,700 26,369 Alabama* 1,771,700 3,221 12,731,000 — 23,147 14,502,700 26,369 Alabama* 535,300 973 2,281,900 — 149,406 83,145,400 Alabama* 1,666,4000 3,007 5,949,000 — 102,816 Alabama* 1,666,4000 3,007 5,949,000 — 102,816 Alabama* 1,666,4000 118 83,825,900 — 152,411 83,899,00 Alabama* 15,766,800 29,413 406,820,540 — 739,674 422,997,504 769,086 Alabama* 2,233,300 4,042 1,255,700 — 2,283 3,479,000 6,325 Alabama* 1,000,000 118 43,900 — 152,411 418,700 341 Alabama* 1,000,000 13,824 1,255,700 — 2,283 3,479,000 6,325 Alabasachusetts 1,028,000 187 84,900 — 164 187,700 341 Alabama* 1,000,000 13,131 644,000 — 164 177,000 341 Alabama* 1,000,000 1,311 644,000 — 164 177,000 341 Alabama* 1,046,600 2,402 210,600 — 4,844 1,256,700 4,22,947 Alabama* 1,046,600 2,402 210,600 — 1,494 3,997,141 6,149 Alabama* 1,046,600 2,402 210,600 — 1,499 3,997,141 6,149 Alabama* 1,044,660 2,402 210,600 — 1,499 3,997,141 6,149 Alabama* 1,044					_				140,247
Note	ia ² 8				_				196,602
Finginiar 507,000 922 28,728,000 — 52,233 29,235,000 53,155 Fegional totals 15,556,720 28,285 577,010,230 — 1,049,110 592,566,950 1,077,394 South Central	Carolina ²	576,800	1,049	72,223,000	_	131,315	72,799,800	132,363	108,286
Regional totals 15,556,720 28,285 577,010,230 — 1,049,110 592,566,950 1,077,394	Carolina ²	3,950,420	7,183	119,182,430	_	216,695	123,132,850	223,878	55,479
South Central South Central South Central Stabama' 483,500 879 117,530,500 — 185,810 118,014,000 214,571 Michansas' 9,222,700 16,769 102,195,500 — 185,810 111,418,200 202,579 Centucky' 1,472,200 2,677 133,904 — 2,43 1,606,104 2,920 2,001,500 — 149,405 83,145,400 151,173 Michannas' 535,300 973 2,281,900 — 149,405 83,145,400 151,173 Michannas' 535,300 973 2,281,900 — 4,149 2,817,200 5,122 Emensessee' 1,654,000 3,007 5,949,000 — 10,816 7,603,000 138,224 Exas' 65,000 118 83,855,900 — 152,411 83,890,900 152,529 Eegional totals 16,176,880 29,413 406,820,540 — 739,674 422,997,504 769,086 Morthagate 7,603,000 136,259 Morthagate 7,603,000 14,000 1	ia ²	507,000	922	28,728,000	_	52,233	29,235,000	53,155	92,707
Matemare 483,500 879 117,530,500 — 213,692 118,014,000 214,571 Valensase 9,222,700 16,769 102,195,500 — 185,810 111,418,200 220,579 fembucky 1,472,200 2,677 133,904 — 243 1,666,104 2,920 ouislane 1,771,700 3,221 12,731,000 — 23,147 14,502,700 26,369 Mississippi 972,400 1,768 82,173,000 — 149,405 83,145,400 151,173 Mkathomae 555,300 973 2,281,900 — 41,49 2,817,200 5,122 emessee 1,664,000 3,007 5,949,000 — 10,816 7,603,000 13,824 exas* 65,000 118 83,825,900 — 162,411 83,809,000 125,259 legional totals 16,176,880 29,413 406,820,540 — 739,674 422,997,504 769,086 769	nal totals 15	5,556,720	28,285	577,010,230	_	1,049,110	592,566,950	1,077,394	593,320
rkansas' 9,22,700 16,769 102,195,500 — 185,810 111,418,200 202,579 entucky' 1,472,000 2,677 133,904 — 243 1,606,104 2,920 colusiana' 1,771,700 3,221 12,731,000 — 23,147 14,502,700 26,369 ltsissispip' 972,400 1,768 82,173,000 — 149,405 83,145,400 151,173 (kabnma' 535,300 973 2,281,900 — 10,816 7,603,000 13,824 exas' 65,000 118 83,825,900 — 152,411 83,890,900 152,529 egional totals 16,176,880 29,413 406,820,540 — 739,674 422,997,504 769,086 column for a same series of a same seri					South Central				
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Centucky					_				156,973
Jouislang ² 1,771,700 3,221 12,731,000 — 23,147 14,502,700 26,389 Alississippi ⁹ 972,400 1,768 82,173,000 — 149,405 83,145,400 151,173 151,173 151,173 151,173 151,173 151,173 151,173 151,172 5,122 2ennessee* 16,54,000 3,007 5,949,000 — 10,816 7,603,000 13,824 2ecar* 16,560 118 83,825,900 — 152,411 83,890,900 152,529 162,000 152,529 162,000 152,529 769,086 162,611 769,086 162,500 152,529 769,086 162,611 769,086 152,529 769,086 162,611 769,086 162,611 769,086 162,611 769,086 162,611 769,086 162,611 769,086 162,611 769,086 162,611 769,086 162,611 769,086 162,611 769,086 162,611 769,086 162,611 769,086 162,611 769,086 162,611 769,086 162,611 769,086 162,611 <					_				1,479
Alississipp 972,400	•								166,984
Makinoma' 355,300 973 2,281,900 — 4,149 2,817,200 5,122 ennessee" 1,654,000 3,007 5,949,000 — 10,816 7,603,000 13,824 2,817,200 152,529 eigional totals 16,176,880 29,413 406,820,540 — 739,674 422,997,504 769,086					_				192,746
Pennessee 1,654,000 3,007 5,949,000									25,434
Fexas 65,000									22,489
Regional totals					_				
Connecticut					_				113,125
Connecticut	nai totais – it	0,170,880	29,413	406,820,540	——————————————————————————————————————	739,674	422,997,504	769,086	942,949
elaware — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — —					Nortneast				
faine²¹¹¹ — — 3,220,000 5,855 3,220,000 5,855 faryland² 2,223,300 4,042 1,255,700 — 2,283 3,479,000 6,325 fassachusetts — — — — — — — lew Hampshire² 11,085 20 145,500 — 265 156,585 285 lew Jersey² 102,800 187 84,900 — 154 187,700 341 lew York² 118,000 131 644,000 — 716 762,000 87 emnsylvania² 1,701,035 3,993 2,639,061 — 4,798 4,340,096 7,891 hode Island — — — — — — — ermont — — — — — — — legional totals 4,836,070 8,709 4,860,686 3,220,000 14,237 12,916,756 22,994 linois³		_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_
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Lew Hampshire	and ² 2	2,223,300	4,042	1,255,700		2,283	3,479,000	6,325	_
lew Jersey² 102,800 187 84,900 — 154 187,700 341 lew York² 118,000 131 644,000 — 716 762,000 847 emnsylvania² 1,701,035 3,093 2,639,061 — 4,798 4,340,096 7,891 thode Island — — — — — — — demont — — — — — — — Vest Virginia² 679,850 1,236 91,525 — 166 771,375 1,403 legional totals 4,836,070 8,709 4,860,686 3,220,000 14,237 12,916,756 22,947 linicis³ 1,044,660 2,402 210,600 — 484 1,255,260 2,886 didian⁴ 2,888,428 4,459 1,098,713 — 1,69 3,971,41 6,149 owas* 797,200 1,329 92,700 — 155 889,900 1,483 <	achusetts	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_
Lew York 118,000	l ampshire ²	11,085	20	145,500	_	265	156,585	285	_
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Vest Virginia² 679,850 1,236 91,525 — 166 771,375 1,403 Regional totals 4,836,070 8,709 4,860,686 3,220,000 14,237 12,916,756 22,947 North Central Ulinois® 1,044,660 2,402 210,600 — 484 1,255,260 2,886 ndiana4 2,898,428 4,459 1,098,713 — 1,690 3,997,141 6,149 owa5 797,200 1,329 92,700 — 155 889,900 1,483 Alichigan¹0,11 2,044,774 3,718 38,630,896 450,000 39,081 41,125,670 42,799 Alimesota³,11 721,000 1,311 8,245,000 4,000,000 20,408 12,966,000 21,719 Alissouri³ 1,310,610 3,013 582,665 — 1,339 1,893,275 4,352 Obini³ 1,418,910 1,774 7,008,505 2,200,000 74,669 72,767,661 92,703 <th< td=""><td>e Island</td><td></td><td>_</td><td>_</td><td>_</td><td>_</td><td>_</td><td>_</td><td>_</td></th<>	e Island		_	_	_	_	_	_	_
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dinois® 1,044,660 2,402 210,600 — 484 1,255,260 2,886 didana4 2,898,428 4,459 1,098,713 — 1,690 3,997,141 6,149 owa5 797,200 1,329 92,700 — 155 889,900 1,483 dichigan ^{10,11} 2,044,774 3,718 38,630,896 450,000 39,081 41,125,670 42,799 dinnesota5,11 721,000 1,311 8,245,000 4,000,000 20,408 12,966,000 21,719 dissouri³ 1,310,610 3,013 582,665 — 1,339 1,893,275 4,352 dhio³ 13,000 30 — — — 13,000 30 Jisconsin§,11 1,418,910 1,774 7,008,505 2,200,000 11,511 10,627,415 13,285 egional totals 10,248,582 18,035 55,869,079 6,650,000 74,669 72,767,661 92,703 ansas² 88,925 162 146,000<			,			,		·	·
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owa5 797,200 1,329 92,700 — 155 889,900 1,483 Alichigan ^{10,11} 2,044,774 3,718 38,630,896 450,000 39,081 41,125,670 42,799 Alichigan ^{10,11} 721,000 1,311 8,245,000 4,000,000 20,408 12,966,000 21,719 Alissouri³ 1,310,610 3,013 582,665 — 1,339 1,893,275 4,352 Ohio³ 13,000 30 — — — — 13,000 30 Visconsin ^{6,11} 1,418,910 1,774 7,008,505 2,200,000 11,511 10,627,415 13,285 Regional totals 10,248,582 18,035 55,869,079 6,650,000 74,669 72,767,661 92,703 Great Plains Great Plains Great Plains 427 427 427 427 427 427 427 427 427 427 427 427 427 427 427 427 427 427 427<									1,331
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Ninnesota ^{5, 11}	gop10.11 (450,000				11,899
Alissouri³ 1,310,610 3,013 582,665 — 1,339 1,893,275 4,352 ahio³ 13,000 30 — — — 13,000 30 Visconsin6.11 1,418,910 1,774 7,008,505 2,200,000 11,511 10,627,415 13,285 degional totals 10,248,582 18,035 55,869,079 6,650,000 74,669 72,767,661 92,703 Great Plains ansas² 88,925 162 146,000 — 265 234,925 427 debraska² 112,000 204 1,493,249 — 2,715 1,605,249 2,919 douth Dakota² 20,500 37 1,252,000 — 2,276 1,272,500 2,314 douth Dakota² 661,156 1,202 351,364 — 639 1,012,520 1,841 degional totals 882,581 1,605 3,242,613 — 5,896 4,125,194 7,500 Intermountain	•								
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Great Plains Kansas² 88,925 162 146,000 — 265 234,925 427 Jebraska² 112,000 204 1,493,249 — 2,715 1,605,249 2,919 Jouth Dakota² 20,500 37 1,252,000 — 2,276 1,272,500 2,314 Jouth Dakota² 661,156 1,202 351,364 — 639 1,012,520 1,841 Jegional totals 882,581 1,605 3,242,613 — 5,896 4,125,194 7,500 Arizona² 46,000 84 — — — 46,000 84 Colorado² 40,000 73 550,000 — 1,049 590,000 1,122									9,413
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ebraska ² 112,000 204 1,493,249 — 2,715 1,605,249 2,919 orth Dakota ² 20,500 37 1,252,000 — 2,276 1,272,500 2,314 outh Dakota ² 661,156 1,202 351,364 — 639 1,012,520 1,841 egional totals 882,581 1,605 3,242,613 — 5,896 4,125,194 7,500 rizona ² 46,000 84 — — — — 46,000 84 olorado ² 40,000 73 550,000 — 1,049 590,000 1,122	•	_			Great Plains				
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Regional totals 882,581 1,605 3,242,613 — 5,896 4,125,194 7,500 Intermountain arizona² 46,000 84 — — — 46,000 84 colorado² 40,000 73 550,000 — 1,049 590,000 1,122					_				_
Intermountain urizona² 46,000 84 — — — 46,000 84 colorado² 40,000 73 550,000 — 1,049 590,000 1,122					_				_
$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}$	nal totals	882,581	1,605	3,242,613	_	5,896	4,125,194	7,500	0
-000000000000000000000000000000000000					Intermountain				
$\frac{1}{10000000000000000000000000000000000$	na ²	46,000	84	_	_	_	46,000	84	_
				550.000	_	1.049			_
0,000 1,020,000 0,000					_				4,287
Montana ² 249,934 454 816,002 — 1,484 1,065,936 1,938					_				5,142
Nevada ² 5,500 10 4,000 — 7 9,500 17					_				5,172

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Table 1. Hardwood and conifer tree seedling production and acres planted for each State and each region during the 2013–2014 planting year. (continued)

State	Hardwood seedlings produced	Hardwood acres planted	Conifer seedlings produced	Canadian conifer imports	Conifer acres planted ¹	Total seedlings produced	Total acres planted¹	FIA data acres planted ¹²
			Inter	mountain (continu	ied)			
New Mexico ²	17,900	33	35,000	_	64	52,900	97	_
Utah	_			_		_	_	_
Wyoming	_					_	_	_
Regional totals	714,126	1,229	5,977,177	_	10,917	6,691,303	12,216	9,429
				Alaska				
Alaska	_	_	_	_		_	_	806
Pacific Northwest								
Oregon ^{7, 13}	1,335,000	3,814	49,343,302	5,272,227	156,044	55,950,529	159,858	88,379
Washington7, 13	969,169	2,769	53,021,617	5,272,227	166,554	59,263,013	169,323	54,179
Regional totals	2,304,169	6,583	102,364,919	10,544,454	322,598	115,213,542	329,181	142,558
Pacific Southwest								
California ⁸	_	_	16,300,000	_	36,222	16,300,000	36,222	29,535
Hawaii ⁸	82,281	183	_	_	_	82,281	183	_
Regional totals	82,281	183	16,300,000	_	36,222	16,382,281	36,405	29,535
Totals	50,801,409	94,041	1,172,445,244	20,414,454	2,253,322	1,243,661,191	2,347,433	1,779,209

¹ Acres planted were estimated assuming:

Table 2. Bareroot and container tree seedling production for each State and each region during the 2013–2014 planting year.

State	Bareroot	Container	Total seedlings produced			
Southeast						
Florida	36,787,000	5,669,000	42,456,000			
Georgia	171,533,500	153,409,800	324,943,300			
North Carolina	55,342,800	17,457,000	72,799,800			
South Carolina	121,637,850	1,495,000	123,132,850			
Virginia	29,235,000	_	29,235,000			
Regional totals	414,536,150	178,030,800	592,566,950			
South Central						
Alabama	111,846,000	6,168,000	118,014,000			
Arkansas	111,418,200	_	111,418,200			
Kentucky	1,534,104	72,000	1,606,104			
Louisiana	14,052,700	450,000	14,502,700			
Mississippi	75,190,400	7,955,000	83,145,400			
Oklahoma	2,743,400	73,800	2,817,200			
Tennessee	7,603,000		7,603,000			
Texas	83,890,900	_	83,890,900			
Regional totals	408,278,704	14,718,800	422,997,504			

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² 550 stems/ac.

^{3 435} stems/ac.

^{4 650} stems/ac.

⁵ 600 stems/ac.

^{6 800} stems/ac.

^{7 350} stems/ac.

^{8 450} stems/ac.

^{9 900} stems/ac.

^{10 1,000} stems/ac.

¹¹ Totals include an estimate of conifers produced in Canada for distribution to neighboring States; bareroot imports for Maine and container for other States.

¹² Average annual acreage planted estimated for all States (2012) on 5-year cycles, except Alaska, Louisiana, Mississippi, and North Carolina are on 7-year cycles and Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, and Washington are on 10-year cycles; data generated by R. Harper.

¹³ Totals include an estimate of conifers imported from Canada to Oregon and Washington (total amount divided evenly between the two States).

Table 2. Bareroot and container tree seedling production for each State and each region during the 2013–2014 planting year. (continued)

State	Bareroot	Container	Total seedlings produced
	North	neast	
onnecticut	_	_	_
elaware	_	_	_
aine	_	_	_
aryland	3,479,000		3,479,000
assachusetts	——————————————————————————————————————		—
w Hampshire	156,585		156,585
	187,700		187,700
w Jersey	735,500	00 500	•
w York	·	26,500	762,000
nnsylvania	3,629,096	711,000	4,340,096
ode Island	_	_	-
rmont	-	-	-
est Virginia	771,375	_	771,375
nada	3,220,000	_	3,220,000
gional totals	12,179,256	737,500	12,916,756
	North (Central	
nois	1,252,500	2,760	1,255,260
liana	3,833,891	163,250	3,997,141
va	889,900	_	889,900
chigan	40,009,550	666,120	40,675,670
nnesota	6,176,000	2,790,000	8,966,000
ssouri	1,893,275		1,893,275
ilo		13,000	13,000
sconsin	8,424,765	2,650	8,427,415
nada	0,424,700	6,650,000	6,650,000
	 62,479,881	10,287,780	72,767,661
gional totals	02,479,001 Great		72,707,001
nsas	urout	234,925	234,925
ebraska	870,000	735,249	1,605,249
orth Dakota	1,200,000	72,500	1,272,500
outh Dakota	997,501	15,019	1,012,520
gional totals	3,067,501	1,057,693	4,125,194
zona		46,000	46,000
	_		
olorado	1 050 700	590,000	590,000
aho	1,856,792	3,070,175	4,926,967
ontana	18,050	1,047,886	1,065,936
vada	_	9,500	9,500
w Mexico	-	52,900	52,900
ah	_	_	_
oming/	- -	_	_
gional totals	1,874,842	4,816,461	6,691,303
	Ala	ska	
aska	_	_	_
	Pacific N		
egon	26,914,219	23,764,083	50,678,302
ashington	31,720,283	22,270,503	53,990,786
nada		10,544,454	10,544,454
gional totals	58,634,502	56,579,040	115,213,542
	Pacific S	outhwest	
lifornia		16,300,000	16,300,000
waii	_	82,281	82,281
egional totals	_	16,382,281	16,382,281

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Data Trends

A total of 1,217,607,888 forest tree seedlings were shipped from forest and conservation nurseries in the United States in fiscal year (FY) 2014, an increase of 36,053,353 (3 percent) over the forest nursery seedling reported for FY 2013 (Harper et al. 2014). Based on the total number of seedlings shipped and the average number of seedlings planted per acre in each State, we estimate that approximately 2,347,957 ac (950,184 ha) of trees were planted during the fall 2013 through spring 2014 planting season, a 3-percent increase compared with the number of acres reported for the previous planting season (Harper et al. 2014). Trends by regions (table 3) are as follows:

West—The 17 States in the USDA Forest Service western regions produced approximately 45 million more seedlings than in the FY 2013 planting season and 11 percent of the U.S. total. This increase, however, is overestimated, because Canadian import estimates were not available for the FY 2013 report.

East—The 20 States in the USDA Forest Service Northeastern Area reported 85 million seedlings, a decrease of 16 million seedlings over the FY 2013 planting season and 7 percent of the U.S. total. The decrease in seedlings reported appears to be a normal fluctuation.

South—The 13 States in the USDA Forest Service Southern Region produced more than 1 billion forest tree seedlings (82 percent of the U.S. total), an increase of 32 million over the FY 2013 planting season.

Overall, forest nursery seedling production increased during the past 3 years (table 3). This trend seems consistent with the steady improvement in the economy during this period. Timber markets continue to be sluggish.

Table 3. Total forest nursery seedling production in each region from FY 2012 to FY 2014.

Year	Total seedling production	West	East	South
FY 2014	1,243,661,191	142,412,320	85,684,417	1,015,564,454
FY 2013	1,181,554,535	96,344,063	102,066,671	983,143,801
FY 2012	1,190,552,819	170,975,830	81,672,547	936,918,542

FY = fiscal year.

Sources: This report and Harper et al. (2013, 2014)

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