

Ben Wang

“The Face of Seed Technology”



Driven by his passion for seeds, Ben Wang established the National Tree Seed Centre at Petawawa Forest Experiment Station in 1967. At the time, reforestation programs were expanding in Canada and research to optimize collection, processing, testing and long term storage of tree seeds of both conifer and hardwood tree species was required.

The National Tree Seed Centre was moved to the CFS Research Centre in Fredericton in 1996. Ben has passed on his dedication and professionalism to his colleagues, and the National Tree Seed Centre continues to be a leader in providing a wide variety of native tree and shrub seed for research, and houses a state-of-the-art facility for preserving biodiversity for future generations. “Ben’s knowledge of and enthusiasm about tree seed has had an immeasurable impact on my ability to manage the Seed Centre. He has been a mentor to me in so many ways,” says Dale Simpson, current manager of the National Tree Seed Centre.

Ben is also well known for the development of the Petawawa Germination Box, which is now used worldwide. This unique box permits maximum use of germinator space, while it allows full development of germinants, and maintains uniform moisture levels in the germination medium.

Ben also took the lead when the Liaoning Province in northeast China asked the Canadian Government to assist them with a reforestation program. With the site characteristics in mind, Ben selected several seed sources from Canadian origin. After twenty years, results have shown clearly that white pine and jack pine perform incredibly well. In fact, these trees are outperforming the native pine species.

Ben currently holds emeritus status at the Petawawa Research Forest.



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