

'Moon Tree' Will Be Planted Tuesday on Campus of ISU

A tree grown from a seed which has been on the moon will be planted at Idaho State University.

The "moon tree" seedling is one of several grown from seeds which accompanied Apollo 14 astronauts to the moon Jan. 31 to Feb. 9, 1971. It will be planted at 10 a.m., Tuesday in the L.E. Gale Life Sciences Complex at ISU.

The seedling, a Douglas fir, has been growing since that time at the California Forest Service Laboratory in Placerville, Calif. It is now about 18 inches high.

Planting of the "moon tree" at ISU will be done by Lt. Gov. John Evans. Also on hand will be over 100 students from Washington Elementary School.

Command Module Pilot Stuart Roosa of the Apollo 14 mission carried a tiny container of tree seeds with him on the flight. They were tested later to determine effects of the voyage, and all but a few sprouted as normal.

In addition to Douglas fir seeds, loblolly pine seeds also made the trip. They are native to southern states.

The seedlings are being planted throughout the United States this year to demonstrate the important role tree by-products play in the space program. Products like rosin-core soldering flux, nylon for re-entry chutes, balsa wood for fuel insulation systems, cork for the command module boost protective cover, and nose cone fairing for Polaris and Poseidon

missiles are all derived from trees.

The plantings are made possible by the U.S. Forest Service, the Department of Agriculture, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.