

ACTIVITIES WESTERN FOREST TREE SEED COUNCIL
and
NORTHWEST FOREST TREE SEED CERTIFIERS, INC.

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In an exchange of preliminary correspondence with Chairman Chuck Bigelow, Northwest Forest Tree Seed Certifiers, Inc., as well as the Western Forest Tree Seed Council listed in your program, was mentioned as an organization of interest to you. Since the Council and Forest Tree Seed Certifiers concern areas of common interest, I propose to briefly review both organizations and the International Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. After examining the voluminous files, I am tempted to give you their titles and answer your questions rather than attempt to describe the activities they have undertaken. A partial historical background review, however, will undoubtedly stir your curiosity about their objectives, operating procedures, and accomplishments.

Western Forest Tree Seed Council

According to my information, the Council originated in July of 1953 as the Northwest Forest Tree Seed Committee. Its original function then, as it is today, was to review problems associated with seed and, in so far as possible, to devise means of solving them. In June of 1960 a charter was issued to the Western Reforestation Coordinating Committee by the Western Forestry and Conservation Association. The Chairman of the Northwest Forest Tree Seed Committee was one of several included in the official membership of this new parent Committee. The next organizational change occurred in April of 1964, when the name was changed to Western Forest Tree Seed Council and a new charter was adopted.

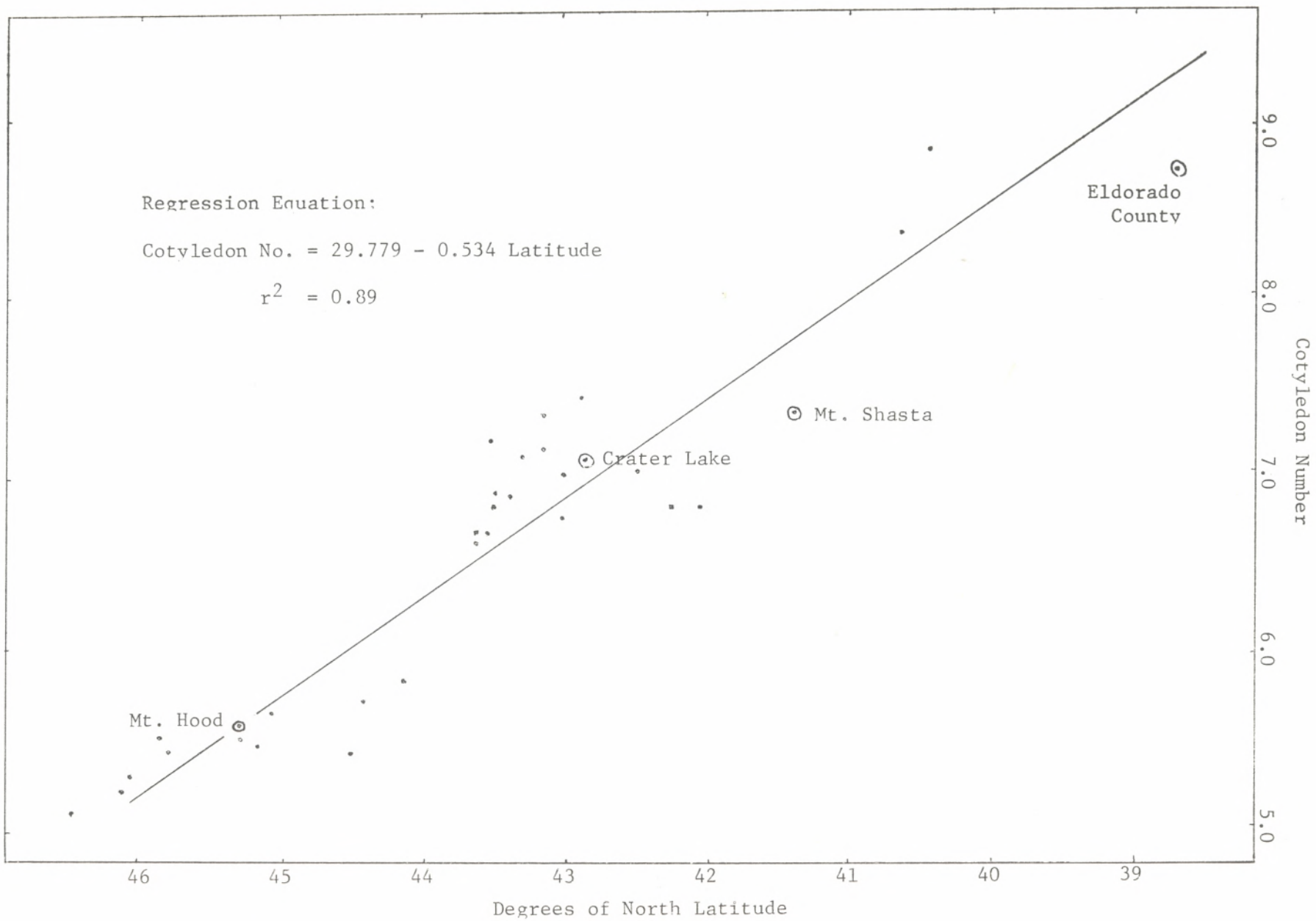


Figure 1.--Relation of cotyledon number to latitude, preliminary data from the 1967 collection.

According to the charter, any interested person in attendance, who is actively engaged in tree seed matters, can be a member in good standing with full privileges. Obviously, it is not difficult to join the organization and all of those interested in Council subject matters are invited to participate. Major Northwest contributors to the accomplishments of the group are located in Oregon, Washington, British Columbia, and Northern California. The primary activities concern tree seed research, state and federal legislation, and tree seed certification. In the area of research, one of the major accomplishments was finalizing the **1966** publication, Sampling and Service-Testily Western Conifer Seeds. This booklet was written, revised and edited by William I. Stein under the technical direction of the Standards Committee. The publication was printed by Western Forestry and Conservation Association under the sponsorship of the Western Reformation Coordinating Committee. It describes seed handling practices, methods of sampling, laboratory testing, a discussion of tree seed transactions, and application of official rules pertinent to tree seeds. For those of you who are interested, copies may be purchased from Western Forestry and Conservation Association for 50 cents each. It is a recommended reference for anyone who is involved in processing or using tree seeds.

In 1958 the Western Forest Tree Seed Committee was instrumental in the development of Douglas fir provenance studies using trees from a number of seed sources that are now planted in Oregon, Washington and British Columbia. This is a continuing project, which will, over a period of years, provide useful information on survival and growth of trees from seed sources throughout the region.

Seed certification action was initiated when Jack Cameron was appointed chairman of a committee to investigate certification in **1959**.

The lack of need or the need for legislation at the state, federal and international level has involved many hours of discussion with some comment occurring at nearly every meeting since the organization was formed. As an example, the following is a partial chronological list of actions that resulted from committee activities plus several related items that contributed to continuing membership legislative interest.

November 2, 1957 - Roy Silen wrote a letter to Hugh Taylor, who was representing Oregon at the Biloxi, Mississippi meeting, stating that the American Association of Seed Control Officials (AASCO) consideration of a federal law at that time would be premature.

February 13, 1960 - Charlie Rindt wrote to Dick Bingham, SAF Committee Chairman studying forest tree improvement, objecting to the International Crop Improvement Association (ICIA) setting tree seed standards.

April 28, 1961 - The Puget Sound Section of the SAF requested that the national organization participate in seed certification and legislation programs being considered by the AASCO.

1961 - Lyle Hojem attended the ICIA meeting at DesMoines, Iowa to discuss seed legislation.

April **3, 1963** - Northwest Forest Tree Seed Committee passed a motion opposing legislation, state or federal.

December 6, 1963 - Paul Rudolf, representing the SAF Seed Committee, wrote Stan Rollin, Chief of the Seed Branch, Grain Division, U.S. Consumer and Marketing Service, U.S.D.A., indicating that the SAF was preparing proposed regulations to include tree seed under federal seed legislation.

April 1, 1964 - A revised state and federal legislation policy statement was approved by the Council. (it is still in effect, but currently being reappraised.)

April 1964 - The AASCO submitted a request to Rollin asking that the Federal Seed Act be amended to include tree seed.

May 20, 1964 - A. B. Curtis, President of Western Forestry and Conservation Association described the Association's policy in a letter to Phil Briegleb, SAF President, stating there was a dearth of evidence indicating a need for Federal Tree Seed legislation.

June 27, 1964 - Nelson Jeffers and Jack Cameron appeared before the AASCO Joint Legislative Committee at San Francisco, asking that action on the Model State Seed Law be postponed until the Council could submit their recommendations.

September 1965 - Council members reviewed the proposed model seed law and recommended changes to the AASCO.

October 27, 1965 - The Council again requested that action be postponed on the Model Law at the Sacramento AASCO meeting of the Joint Legislative Council.

1965 - The National Christmas Tree Growers Association, at its meeting in Ithaca, New York, went on record favoring amendments to the Federal Seed Act to affect interstate shipments and imported tree seed.

1965 - The SAF Seed Certification Committee, on the basis of a nationwide survey, found an increasing interest in seed legislation, but no conviction of need.

June 1966 - Cecil Clapp, USE'S Washington, D.C., met with the Council to discuss the Organization for Economic Cooperative Development (OECD) and its scheme for establishing rules and regulations affecting International Tree Seed shipments.

September 1966 - Stan Rollin, at the Council's request, discussed seed legislation at a meeting held at the University of Washington.

September 13, 1967 - The AASCO Joint Legislative Committee acted favorably on the Western Forest Tree Seed Council's tree and shrub amendments to the Model State Seed Law as presented by Don Hopkins at DesMoines.

November 22, 1967 - Western Forest Tree Seed Council asked Policy Committee to re-examine member opinion regarding tree seed legislation because the Washington State Department of Agriculture is revising their seed law in 1969.

July 15, 1968 - Council Legislative Committee reviewed proposed change in the Washington State Law - now under consideration by Council membership.

In April of 1964 the Council prepared a policy statement concerning Forest Tree Seed Legislation that essentially remains unchanged, but is currently being reviewed. It reads as follows:

1. This policy statement supersedes all past statements of policy.
2. NFTSC will work to delay, for at least the immediate future, the enactment of any federal legislation regulating interstate commerce in western forest seed. Western foresters generally are not asking for such federal legislation at this time, and are opposed to the adoption of legislation that seems to be uncalled for.
3. NFTSC encourages the solution of such western forest seed problems as exist by voluntary cooperative means on a state or regional basis. Such means would include:
(a) self-policing seed certification organization; (b) organizations of buyer-users groups such as tree farmers, Christmas tree growers and nurserymen to coordinate and specify minimum requirement for origin and standards; (c) organizations of seedsmen; (d) public distribution of information needed by users for intelligent purchase, including special requirements for special purposes.
4. WFTSC recognizes that problems in other parts of the country may result in pressure for federal legislation. WFTSC will be constantly alert to this situation as it develops, be prepared to evaluate the impact of proposals on western forestry, and, as necessary, make recommendations for the most equitable solution in the interest of professional and organizational objectives.
5. If, and when, the enactment of a federal law concerning forest seed seems imminent, WFTSC will support a separate forest seed act rather than the blanketing of tree seed under the present Federal Seed Act. The overriding importance of origin or source in forest seed as contrasted with the items considered significant in labeling agricultural seed dictate this choice. WFTSC opposed blanketing forest seed under such an artificial group as "tree and shrub" seed.
6. WFTSC encourages the development of a model state law covering forest seed, the adoption to be up to each state.

7. WFTSC will set up a continuing legislative committee to appraise the Council of current developments, make evaluations, and recommend Council action. The committee members will be rotated.

Northwest Forest Tree Seed Certifiers Association

Between November 14, 1962, when Nelson Jeffers, Chairman of the Western Re-forestation Coordinating Committee, called a meeting in Tacoma to discuss Seed Certification, and formation of Northwest Tree Seed Certifiers Association in April of 1966, a number of sessions were devoted to proposals, arguments pro and con and final majority agreement that it was impractical to attempt to develop an independent organization that could be financed and administered effectively for certification of tree seed alone. It was concluded therefore that the Oregon Seed Certification Board and the Washington State Department of Agriculture be asked to establish provisions that would permit certification under the authority of their respective offices. In Washington, the Director of Agriculture published the required notices and held hearings as required by state law to establish rules and regulations under which certification was turned over to the Washington Crop Improvement Association, an organization that certifies small grain seeds throughout the state. In Oregon, the Oregon State University Seed Certification Service supervised seed activities using mutually developed inspection procedures for those firms requesting certification.

The big crop year that occurred in 1966 gave an excellent opportunity to test practicability of the new system. In all, 11,456 pounds of Douglas fir seed were origin certified and 258,210 pounds of seed in warehouse stores were placed under the warehouse inventory audit. A more complete story of certification accomplishments is presented in the May 1968 issue of the 'Journal of Forestry.' Reprints of Howard Hopkins' article can be obtained by addressing a request to either of the seed certification organizations. A supply is also available for you here, as well as copies of the Oregon Forest Tree Certification Standards for those who are interested in them.

As previously mentioned, the Council is currently interested in new legislation being proposed to clarify the authority to certify tree seed in the State of Washington. The Department of Agriculture has selected 1969 as the year to revise their laws pertaining to all seed. Currently there is a question concerning their inclusion of forest tree seed under the term agricultural seed. The Washington proposal is still under study by the Council and although approved by a majority of the legislative committee, it has not been reviewed by the full membership for their recommendation. In Oregon, the extension service is providing certification under the general authorities citing the Dean of the School of Agriculture as responsible for Forest Tree Seed Certification in the State. An opinion of the Attorney General, issued several years ago, indicates that forest tree seed is not covered under the Oregon Agricultural Act. It may be that some time in the future, it will also specifically be included in the Oregon statutes if this appears to be necessary to permit continuation of certification.

Although the Council has gone on record as being opposed to an enactment of federal legislation at the present time, it is interesting to note the Forest Service's position on labeling and certification of forest tree seed as contained in a statement of May, 1965.

1. The Forest Service supports tree seed labeling and certification because it will protect domestic and foreign seed buyers, improve market for good seed, encourage the production of improved forest trees and more intensive forestry.

2. The Forest Service favors action by State Foresters, seed dealers, practicing foresters and seed officials at the Agricultural Colleges in developing State standards and procedures for certification either within the framework of the International Crop Improvement Association or independent of it, The Forest Service favors as much uniformity as possible in state laws, standards and procedures.
3. The Forest Service, working through prescribed Departmental channels, will participate in the consideration of amendments to the Federal Seed Act designed to include tree seed. The Federal Seed Act has the effect of backing up state laws on seed labeling and certification. Possible amendments would extend these provisions to tree seeds. If so amended, the Act would have the effect of requiring that imported tree seeds meet standards of quality.

NOTE: This suggested policy on tree seed labeling and certification will not affect administration of the Federal Plant Quarantine Laws.

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

Although the Council has placed primary emphasis on local, state and federal seed activities, there is an international organization, the OECD, that may have more effect on the immediate need for legislation at the state and federal level than do the apparent requirements of seed producers and users in this country. The OECD is a successor to the organization for European Economic Cooperation that developed under the Marshall Plan.

Upon completion of the Marshall Plan objectives, the countries involved, plus the United States and Canada, decided that continuation of a similar program was desirable. As a result, the OECD was officially organized in September of 1961. The aims of the OECD in brief are to achieve the highest sustainable economic growth in employment, a rising standard of living in member countries, and to contribute to sound economic expansion in member, as well as non-member, countries in the process of economic development. Also to contribute to the extension of world trade on a multi-lateral, non-discriminatory basis in accordance with international obligations. Although primary efforts are devoted to other than forestry sciences and wood products, their work does include development of a scheme for seed certification. Original emphasis was placed on forage seeds; however, a proposal for tree seeds has, according to our information, been approved and is ready for acceptance by member countries on a voluntary basis.

Progress of the plan has been of concern to the seed dealers in this area, primarily due to an increased interest in seed purchasers from the European countries who are becoming more and more demanding in the quality of the product they are importing from other nations. Results of their many years use of seeds from the United States, and the Northwest in particular, has demonstrated the necessity of having adequate seed origin identification. Several purchasers, primarily in Germany, have been so dissatisfied with results of their purchases, that they have sent their own foresters to this country to supervise collection of their seed. Conformance with OECD's Certification Standards should renew the European buyer's confidence in seed they import.

OECD's progress in development of their scheme has been of great interest to Council membership. Jack Cameron, previously representing Manning Seed Company,

was particularly concerned with these developments because a large portion of their product is sold overseas. As a result, Jack was able to keep Council membership posted on the organization's program. In June of 1966, Cecil Clapp from the Washington, D.C. office of the U.S. Forest Service, was designated as the United States representative (replacing Paul Rudolf) to an OECD meeting in Paris. At the Council's request, Mr. Clapp met with members in Portland in June, just prior to the Paris meeting. Several suggestions were proposed with the request that he transmit the Council's desires to delegates from other countries.

At the May, 1968 meeting of the Council, Mr. Robert Hitt, Branch Chief for Tree Improvement and Nursery Management in the Southeast Area, U.S. Forest Service, Atlanta, Georgia, reported on OECD developments following Cecil Clapp's attendance at the Paris meeting. All evidence indicates that the scheme will be in operation shortly. Recommendations submitted by the U.S. Forest Service, as reported in the Council's meeting minutes, are that:

1. The United States participate in the OECD scheme.
2. An agency of the United States Department of Agriculture be designated to administer the scheme.
3. A joint committee of the concerned agencies be organized to develop plans, organization structure, and personnel requirements to administer the program.
4. That the Forest Service be the technical authority when questions arise of a technical nature.

The OECD scheme is entirely voluntary and all seeds shipped to foreign countries do not have to have the OECD label. Only those seeds that are designated as falling under the program need to be produced and packaged in conformance with the OECD stipulations. As an example, in 1967 the Agricultural Research Service, the agency handling forage seed provisions through existing state agencies, processed three and one-half million pounds of seed under the program, whereas the total export was seventy million pounds.

The Council does have a continuing interest in the program and Bent Gerdes has been appointed chairman of the committee to investigate OECD development and its impact on local operations.

It is of interest to note the correspondence from H. H. Leenders, General Secretary of the Federation Internationale du Commerce des Semences, Holland, which points out the primary difference between the certification program in effect in Oregon and Washington occurs in terms used to describe the seed. Under OECD there are three classes: (a) source identified reproductive material; (b) selected reproductive material (from selected stands, untested seed orchards and cones); (c) certified reproductive material (from tested seed orchards, stands or cones), Yr. Leenders suggested that the classes of certification employed by local certifiers be changed to correspond with those used in the OECD scheme. Basically this would mean a change of origin certified to source identified, since currently the other categories of certified seed are not being produced.

In summary, I would like to emphasize the fact that Western Tree Seed Council is interested in all matters pertaining to seed. Much of the membership

effort has been devoted to tree seed research, publishing a brochure on sampling and service-testing of western conifer seed, consideration of proposed state and federal legislation, assisting in development of Northwest Forest Tree Seed Certifiers, Inc., and consideration of the impact that the International Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development will have on the production of seeds from the west.

You are invited to join with the Council in its efforts to solve the many problems involved in improving management of this important resource.

Those who are seed users, producers, or otherwise have a financial interest in tree seed should seriously consider membership in Tree Seed Certifiers. Success of the program is assured only when purchasers recognize the advantages gained from use of certified seed.
