

THE CONTAINERIZED SEEDLING:
AN IMPORTANT NEW DEVELOPMENT IN FORESTRY

Frank J. Kopecky, presiding

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

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Before we proceed, I thought you might be interested in a brief insight to a series of events that led to this Symposium. About 3 years ago, foresters began hearing about research being done by Dr. Tinus, with the Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station in Bottineau, North Dakota. This research involved a system for growing forest seedlings under controlled environmental conditions--in greenhouses.

Prompted by growing interest in this project, the Forest Service Division of State and Private Forestry here in Denver (which I headed until about a month ago) and the Division of Timber Management joined with the Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station to hold an informal meeting in Bottineau to consider this new method of growing seedlings. The meeting was held in November 1971, and attended by about 20 foresters representing State and Federal agencies and private industry. Some interesting facts emerged from this gathering, including the realization that experimentation and practical application of greenhouse seedling production was becoming rather widespread. Amazingly, we learned that the United States was not the leader in the field--that work was well advanced in Canada and in Scandinavia!

Recognizing the potential widespread application of containerized seedling production technology, a task force was organized at the

Bottineau meeting to study the situation and recommend a course of action. The task force issued its report in March 1972. One of its recommendations was that an international conference be held on the subject. The Great Plains Forestry Committee, at its meeting in Missoula, Montana, last year in June, took the torch and drafted a resolution to its parent Great Plains Agricultural Council that it sponsor such a conference. The Council responded favorably to the resolution, and gave the Forestry Committee the green light to proceed. And that, in a nutshell, is how this Symposium became a reality.

It's a personal pleasure now to introduce the Chairman of the North American Containerized Forest Tree Seedling Symposium. As Regional Forester for the Rocky Mountain Region, and a native of the Great Plains, Bill Lucas has shown much enthusiasm for the potential of containerized seedlings for improving tree establishment in the Rockies and Plains. As he has consistently done in the full range of State and Private Forestry programs, Bill has strongly supported the cooperative projects now underway with the States of Colorado and Kansas for the production of containerized seedlings. As Chairman, he has given full commitment and personal involvement to the planning and preparation for this Symposium. I am pleased to present Regional Forester Bill Lucas.