

THE COMMITTEE ON SOUTHERN FOREST TREE IMPROVEMENT*

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In January 1951, foresters in the South took the first step toward formation of a genetics research coordinating committee, when they met at Atlanta, Ga., "to assess the status of our knowledge of genetics as related to trees and to determine the status or extent of the application of this knowledge." There was also the hope that leads would develop, pointing the course which research in the forest genetics field should take, and the part each individual and organization should play. As a result of this meeting, a 12-man Committee on Southern Forest Tree Improvement was organized with its membership representing all phases of forestry in the South at the technical level. This **committee met** for the first time in June of 1951⁰

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The central committee first organized permanent subcommittees on Geographic Source of Seed, Genetic Control of Seed (production of genetically superior seed), Tree Selection and Breeding, and Progeny Testing. The chairmen of these permanent subcommittees and a nucleus of membership were selected from the central committee. Additional members who were especially qualified to offer help in the particular field of subcommittee responsibility also were chosen from outside the central committee. These subject matter committees were to draw up possible research programs in their respective fields and report back to the central committee. Arrangements were also made for the preparation of guideline publications showing how to go about genetics work in a reasonably sound manner, and for publication of a semi-annual news letter.

During the past two years this committee has sponsored eight publications and reports on tree improvement work and has undertaken a regional cooperative study of geographic sources of southern pine seed. In addition, it must receive much of the credit for a general wave of interest in southern tree improvement research.

The committee has defined its objectives as:

1. To advise and assist those interested in the improvement of southern forest trees in arranging and conducting research and development programs.
2. To provide a clearing house for information on forest tree improvement.
3. To provide for or assist in coordination in the conduct of a South-wide program of tree improvement research and development.

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southern tree genetics.