

THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON TREE AND STAND SELECTION

Paul O. Rudolf 1/

The objective of this subcommittee is to assemble the best possible criteria for selecting superior forest trees and stands in the Lake States. Its aim has been to put this information in clear and simple language so that field men unacquainted with technical genetics terms can follow and use the descriptions.

A preliminary report was reviewed by the entire subcommittee. It was then revised and submitted to the entire Tree Improvement Committee and several well-qualified people outside the Committee. As a result of this review, the report was revised further and it is now believed to be in good shape.

The report lists and discusses briefly the important characters of forest trees which are known with reasonable certainty to be strongly controlled by heredity. These include growth rate, seed production, form, branching habit, resistance to enemies, wood quality, volume and quality of products other than wood, tolerance, and response to daylength. In addition to these characters which apply to all species, additional, more specific characters are described for most of the important forest tree species of the Lake States. Included are red pine, eastern white pine, jack pine, white spruce, black spruce, balsam fir, tamarack, eastern hemlock, sugar maple, red oak, and aspens. Mentioned also is the importance of selection of trees superior for windbreak and shelterbelt, erosion control, wildlife, and Christmas tree purposes.

The report suggests both methods and means of reporting superior trees and stands and proposes a method of procedure for utilizing the superior trees and stands in a forest tree improvement program.

The subcommittee report is ready for publication except for one bottleneck, The plan has been to use numerous photographs and drawings to illustrate and clarify the text. Several hundred photographs have been examined, but a number of the desired illustrations still are to be found. It was hoped to use line drawings for some of the illustrations, especially where photographs were lacking, but there has been difficulty in locating an artist who could do the job satisfactorily and at a reasonable fee. As soon as these difficulties are overcome--and I believe they soon shall--we expect to complete the report and have it published. It should serve a very useful purpose in our tree improvement program.

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1/ Forester, Lake States Forest Experiment Station, Forest Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, maintained in cooperation with the University of Minnesota at St. Paul 1, Minnesota. Other members of this subcommittee are E. J. Adams, R. G. Hitt, H. E. Ochsner, P. W. Robbins, A. J. Riker, and S. H. Spurr.