

Forest Tree Improvement in the Lake States

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Earlier, Ernie asked me to make a short statement, and just a few minutes ago, he said to make it still shorter. Our Committee in the Lake States is somewhat comparable to yours. It antedates yours by a few months. We have a nine-man Committee, comparable to your Executive Committee, which represents the organizations and subject matter interests of the region. The forest schools, the state conservation departments, the federal forest service, and forest industries are represented, and to have silviculturists, wood technologists, pathologists, and entomologists on our Committee. We have divided our working group into four Subcommittees; we don't have as many as you do. Ours are a little broader in concept, perhaps.

The one that we consider of primary interest now is preparing a guide for selecting superior stands and trees. We have a review draft which is being revised, and we hope eventually to come out with a popularized, simplified edition (as far as we can) to give the field man the best possible guide in terms that he can understand.

The second Subcommittee is developing a basis for determining seed collection zones. We consider that a preliminary to setting up seed certification activities. In our region, about 90 percent of the seed is collected by public agencies so that we don't feel that legal compulsion is particularly necessary at this time.

The third Subcommittee is developing a bibliography of forest tree improvement literature particularly as it refers to the Lake States and to species found

in the States. The fellow who has done most of the leg work on that bibliography has been attending these meetings. I refer to Bill Libby, who worked under Dr. Spurr, Chairman of the Subcommittee.

The fourth Subcommittee is developing a list of projects for study in the broad field of tree improvement, attempting to point out, if possible, the fields or individual studies of greatest urgency and then listing others more or less in order of priority.

That gives you a general idea of our Committees. We're aiming at a second general conference next spring. Now as the representative of that group, I'd like to congratulate you on your fine attendance and interest. I have appreciated the opportunity of being here. Thank you.