

BLACK SPRUCE WOOD QUALITY

2. Structure of Wood and Paper Strength

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Detailed studies, still in progress, on the quality of black spruce in relation to pulp and paper, have shown that about 15 rings from the pith fibres have almost attained their adult dimension. The general impression gained is of a wood with unusually uniform structure, with a corewood region too small to be of practical significance. Pulping studies analyzed to date show a negative correlation between paper tensile strength and specific gravity, growth rate and fibre length. It seems that chemical properties, such as lignin content, may prove to be more useful predictors for paper stress purposes than structural characteristics.

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1/ Ontario Research Foundation.