

## TAMARACK PLUS TREE SELECTION<sup>1/</sup>

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Thirty phenotypically superior trees were selected in central Maine during the fall and winter of 1981-1982. The comparison tree selection method was used to identify plus trees within stands. Most of the stands are small pockets composed of pure, even-aged tamarack. Stands were located by helicopter, information from private landowners and roadside search. Within the geographic region, the stands are well distributed and represent a wide range of site conditions, from true bogs to well-drained upland sites.

A point system was developed to accompany the comparison tree selection that emphasizes bole form, growth rate (height and diameter), branch habit (angle and branch diameter) and natural pruning. Stand information was recorded at the time of selection including stand composition and constitution, stocking, regeneration and floor description. Also, limited site measurements were taken to determine the slope, drainage class and depth of organic matter.

In March of 1982 scion was collected from the selected trees. A rifle, bow and arrow or pole pruner was used to collect the material. Scion were grafted on Japanese larch root stock for future breeding work.

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