

USE REQUIREMENTS

Timber and wood quality. What size and quality of timber will be wanted from our future forests?

FUTURE SIZE AND QUALITY REQUIREMENTS FOR  
SOFTWOOD TIMBER TREES IN THE NORTHEAST

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If foresters are able to influence the future tree population of the Northeast, four conifers are likely to be of commercial importance, namely white pine, red pine, spruce, and hemlock. Let us then speculate a bit about the future. If forest management continues to be primarily a matter of protecting wild forest lands from fire and other destructive factors, then we can expect all conifers to dwindle in area, volume, size, and quality. Some spruce will continue to inhabit certain swamps and mountains. Hemlock will prevail here and there since of all conifers it gets along best with hardwoods. White pine is likely to decline since old-field stands when cut revert to hardwoods and in the future there will be less abandoned agricultural land for reseeding. Red pine most likely will continue to be a favorite tree for planting, but there will be fewer old fields available for tree planting as population increases and spreads out into the rural areas. In general, under present conditions and trends, the conifers will continue to give ground to the hardwoods.

If well-trained foresters, farsighted business men, and public-spirited politicians unite in establishing by law an economic and political climate, attractive to the investment of substantial capital in timber growing, trend favoring the conifers is likely to begin. It has happened in certain democratic countries in Europe. It could happen here. We know that the world-wide timber shortage is in conifers. Hardwoods, being more exacting, can only be grown to best advantage on the more productive, well-watered sites. In general, such sites are likely to be needed for future agricultural expansion. In the Northeast, because of uneven stony ground and a climate somewhat unfavorable to agriculture, there is an appreciable area likely to be available for growing hardwoods. However, most of our land available to forestry, although now clothed with hardwood weed trees, is actually better suited to the growing of conifers.

It should be the highest hope of every patriotic citizen to see this country remain strong economically and to continue to be a beautiful and healthy place in which to live. Fine, highly productive forests are vital to this end. The best hope for truly satisfactory forestry seems to lie in the







