

## INTRODUCTION

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I share with Mr. Claridge genuine pleasure in welcoming each of you to the Eastern Regional Forest Nurserymen's Conference.

The theme of this Conference, "The Forest Nursery, 1964," is general enough to permit a wide range of topics for discussion. This has been done. We have a lot of catching up to do. It's been some time since the last conference. Production is generally down. Some nurseries have been closed. The demand for hardwood seedling production is increasing. Nursery management practices have changed as many new tools, production methods, chemicals, etc., have become available. A wide array of "cides" (insecti, herbi, nemata, fungi) are now marketed for use in nursery management. There are scarcely enough days in a normal work-week to make the rounds with existing spray schedules. The "silent spring" has squeaked loud enough so that we in the forest nursery industry should also harken it's warning. Some prudence on our parts in the "routinely scheduled" or perhaps rather the "condition warranted" application of these "cides" seems wise and justified. This is especially true now that production pressures are no longer a problem.

A few nurseries are new - mere infants. Others have grown and are now in their teens. We call this our "teen-acres." A few are older and more mature. They no longer suffer "growing pains" but rather, in some instances, "slow-growing" pains. They're tired and worn out! In many of these only through proper diet and adequate mineral nutrition can we keep the site right. Oddly enough, man wonders after clearing, burning, scraping, loosening, leveling, fumigating, seeding, spraying, trenching, pruning, and numerous other man-applied flings" to his nursery and its stock, why he has problems. Perhaps the Biblical expression, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they are doing," has far wider implications and applications than we realize.

Quality rather than quantity seedling production is now our hall-mark. This promises to become even more significant as seed of improved genetic quality becomes available from seed production areas and from seed orchards.

Each of you is invited to share an active part in the program. Spontaneous questions are the order of the day. We only request that the moderators be brutal when it comes to staying on time.