

DISCUSSIONS FOLLOWING THE
FOREST TREE IMPROVEMENT SESSION

- Hunt: What grass mixtures do you recommend for temporary cover and what for permanent ground cover in seed orchards?
- Peaslee: Annual rye is best under almost all conditions. It certainly does well on the dry subsoil areas. In the better soil and the areas with partial shade the alsike and brome are able to form a permanent sod.
- Schreiner: With all the literature pointing out the undesirable effects of weed and sod competition, I would think one would wisely avoid establishing permanent sod cover.
- Peaslee: None of the seed orchard sites is level enough to enable us to clean cultivate. We have a continual erosion problem on any bare area. The saucers of soil and mulch which I mentioned are kept free of weeds and grass so little competition should be experienced.
- Schreiner: Cuttings of Norway spruce may give better results than grafting. Rooting techniques have improved markedly in the past years.
- Carlson: Our grafting success has improved over the years also. This year we grafted dormant scions on dormant rootstock with good results.
- Comment: What one needs is a source of vigorous or "rejuvenated" secondary material - for grafting or cuttings.
- Comment: Try bench grafting with dormant stocks, covering the roots with peat until the union is successfully knit. In Finland thin plastic domes are used to extend the growing season and ameliorate the severe winters. F.A.O. might have such information.