

INTRODUCTION TO THE PROCEEDINGS

Forest genetics is the newest and perhaps the most rapidly growing branch of forest science. It has assumed its present importance, not on the basis of abstract deliberations, but because its disciplines are vital to the transformation from old-growth to second-growth management. The task of the forest geneticist, therefore, is, in the long run, to offer guidance for the conversion of the natural forest into cultivated, improved forest that will more adequately meet the requirements of the timber industries.

The Western Forest Genetics Association (originally named Northwest Forest Genetics Association) was founded in 1955 to facilitate communication between members of the Association and coordinate the findings of individuals and organizations involved in tree improvement work in western North America. It was not an accident that the first tree breeding station in the world was established in this region in 1925.

Considerable progress has been made since that time and the Association is now in a position to publish proceedings for the first time, as it happens, of the last general meeting held in Olympia, Washington, on December 6, 1965. This is an important and heartening event for all those who have been active in the Association since its founding. It is an accomplishment to be proud of, and we hope that the future work of forest geneticists in this region will fulfill the promise of the Association's beginning.

O. Sziklai, Chairman
Western Forest Genetics Assoc.