

THE NORTHEASTERN AREA, CHANGES AND OUTLOOK

Lloyd R. Casey 1/

The year since we last met has been a year with many changes. The Resource Management Staff has been reorganized. Clyde Hunt has been assigned the tree improvement duties for Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, and West Virginia. Fred Deneke, who is in our St. Paul office, has the tree improvement responsibilities for Illinois, Iowa, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin. Dick Kennell has moved to Maryland on assignment with the Science and Education Administration. Ed Vandermillen is our new Staff Director. Many of you knew Ed when he was a nurseryman at the Eveleth Nursery or when he was State Forester of Connecticut.

I have the responsibility of nurseries and reclamation in all of the Northeastern Area. I am your representative in Broomall and I would like to hear from you as to how I can be most effective in making your job easier.

The C-M 4 and Title IV programs have been incorporated into the new "Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978", Public Law 95-313. As a result all states will receive one allotment from the Forest Service for their Rural Forestry Assistance cooperative work. For that one allotment, however, specific targets will be negotiated for specific activities. In the future, Federal cost sharing funds will be based on the States' Resource Plan that will be completed by 1983. It is important that you make the State Forester aware of the needs of the nursery and the tree improvement program. We will be asking for your accomplishment for FY 1979 during August. It assists us in our planning if you could provide us with a narrative of your program and your needs.

For the first time in many years, the demand for seedlings is going up. The Lake States Region is experiencing an increase in industrial demand and contracts have been made for the amount of one million or more from just one customer. Early indications are that the surface mining states will be experiencing an increase of 10 to 20 percent due to the new Federal Reclamation Law.

The New England areas demand of tree seedlings has dropped. This is caused by an antiplanting attitude among the people. These States are 70 to 80 percent forested; consequently, they do not want to plant up the few remaining old fields. We have been notified, for example, by Vermont that they will be limiting their nursery production to genetically improved sugar maple. In other cases, such as Delaware and New Jersey, urban sprawl has

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taken up much of the plantable areas. This demand could change, however, in these areas if urban areas start to use the state produced stock for certain projects. Maryland already produces materials for roadside, parkways, and other State recreational lands.

A major change in the NA nurseries in the past few years has been the absence of large surpluses. Many states have sold out of stock in January. This can be attributed to decreasing budgets. Better planning of seedling schedule is done to avoid needless production of surplus stock. All of you have become more innovative by building machinery to replace expensive labor (labor is up over 50% in the last six years). The following is a summary of a study done by Sid Hanks in 1972 on nursery costs in NA vs 1978 costs.

COMPARATIVE STATE NURSERY PRODUCTION COSTS
1972 & 1978

No. States 1972	No. States 1978	Seedling Production in MM	Cost per M 1972	Cost per M 1978
8	9	.5-5	\$65.49	\$65.85
4	6	5-10	\$34.92	\$61.62
3	3	10-15	\$30.76	\$38.50
3	0	15-20	\$29.33	

We are now growing a larger number of species. Some States are reporting as many as 50 different tree and shrub species being produced. (This doesn't include the different seed sources recommended by geneticists.) wildlife shrubs comprise a larger portion of the production schedules. There are several states producing prairie grass seed as well.

It is evident that the forest seedling nursery business has changed in the past few years and we have had to change with it. For the future, we will see tighter budgets, a demand for more species and genetically improved seed, and greater pressure from the urban sector for our services.

The only way that we are going to meet the challenge is to create better cooperation among the Federal government, State government, universities and the private nurseries. Together we can fill all the demands of the public for forest tree seedlings.