

ORNAMENTAL BY-PRODUCTS OF A FOREST TREE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

by

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The first tree improvement program in the Douglas-fir region was started by the Industrial Forestry Association in 1954. The Association represents over 100 timber-owning and timber-processing companies in western Oregon and western Washington. Advice and assistance in tree improvement is only one of the services offered to the membership.

Tree improvement activities to date have been almost entirely concentrated on Douglas-fir; the other major coniferous species in the area—Sitka spruce, western hemlock, noble fir, grand fir, and western red cedar—have received only minor attention. Douglas-fir shows a high degree of variability for many characteristics of importance in forestry. Growth rate, straightness of stem, and crown form have been chief criteria for initial selections. However, selection of the desirable also entails observance and

rejection of the undesirable for the purpose in mind. The most striking of the rejects may be difficult to completely discard, if for no other reason than having a "rogues' gallery" for demonstration purposes.

A few of these rogues shed This classification when viewed from the angle of the horticulturist or landscaper, and become "ornamental by-products"—a term that Mr. Franklin and I both seem to like. I now wish to present for your interest a few slides showing some of the more unique forms of coastal Douglas-fir and associated species, together with some of the other North American conifers raised from seed at our laboratory.

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