

DISCUSSION-PANEL ON PROBLEMS OF SEED AND POLLEN
COLLECTION, STORAGE, AND EXCHANGE

At the close of this panel there was vigorous discussion which had to be terminated by the moderator to stay within time limits. The gist of the discussion follows

It is not clear whether or not existing quarantine regulations cover pollen; at least pollen is not mentioned specifically in them. There is some indication that elm mosaic can be transmitted from tree to tree through elm pollen. There may, therefore, be danger of distributing other pests with pollen.

The traffic in pollen doubtless will increase, and so far no methods are known by which pollen can be decontaminated without seriously impairing its viability. Some research is under way, however, on this problem. It behooves all those involved to use extreme care in shipping pollen. Every effort should be made to obtain it from pest-free trees.

The shipment of pollen and seed is somewhat of a calculated risk. So long as we use intelligence and ordinary precaution we probably are on the safe side. So far as possible, both pollen and seed should, therefore, be collected and handled by trained scientific personnel.

It was suggested that trained pathologists and entomologists, as well as native plant material, should be sent to Europe and other foreign countries to determine (1) the insects and diseases which might be potential threats to our species, and (2) the reaction of these species to the diseases and insects now present in these foreign countries. It was agreed, however, that there is not much chance of preventing the shipment or transfer of unknown entities and that considerable difficulties will remain even after we know exactly what diseases and what insects we wish to prevent from entering our country.