

REPORT OF THE SEED CERTIFICATION SUBCOMMITTEE

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During the past biennium the principal activity of our regional subcommittee has been to cooperate with the Society of American Foresters' Seed Certification Subcommittee in a national survey of opinion on tree seed certification and legislation. We canvassed our own membership and prepared a composite questionnaire reply to the SAF Subcommittee.

Some 123 organizations or individuals received the SAF Subcommittee questionnaire and 96 replies were received, distributed regionally as follows: Northeast, 12; Midwest, 23; West, 25; South, 25; and Canada, 11.

Based on the information in the questionnaires and other pertinent material the SAF Subcommittee prepared a report that was published in the September 1961 issue of the Journal of Forestry (pp. 656-661).

The report suggested some revised minimum standards for certifying forest tree seed; these have been submitted to the International Crop Improvement Association for consideration. The report also suggested that action to obtain federal or state legislation on tree seeds be withheld until foresters become better informed and can present well-founded views on the subject. This recommendation was presented to the Association of American Seed Control Officials at their 1961 biennial meeting in New York. That organization referred the matter to their Tree Seed Committee, and they will make no recommendations before 1963.

The SAF Seed Certification Subcommittee turned up the fact that many foresters, even those engaged in seed work, are poorly informed or misinformed on seed legislation. The Subcommittee, therefore, is assembling information with which to prepare and disseminate widely a factual statement on tree seed legislation. The Subcommittee also plans to prepare two or three other brief factual statements concerning scientific evidence for using seed of known origin, explaining how certification might remove the risks from seed buying, what its probable costs would be, and how it might be implemented. These will be recommended for publication consecutively in the Journal of Forestry and then probably will be followed by another opinion survey to guide recommendations to seed certification and seed legislation organizations.

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To get back to the local scene, the Tree Seed Certification Subcommittee of the Lake States Forest Tree Improvement Committee will continue to cooperate with the SAF Subcommittee. It also plans a closer survey of the tree seed legislation needs in the Lake States. It may, if the need seems evident, prepare guidelines for such legislation.