

Portage Lake Seed Production Area, Chippewa National Forest

Tour Guide: Roger Hatch ^{4/}

This red pine seed production area, recently completed, occupies 32 acres and is surrounded by a 400-foot-wide buffer zone which occupies an additional 32 acres. The good-quality stand is about 60 years old and has a site index of 60. It is anticipated that the seed production area will provide enough seed to produce 1,000,000 plantable seedlings per year.

The trees selected for seed production have the following characteristics: Straight, well-formed single stems--no crooks or forks and a minimum of sweep; high form class; natural pruning as high as or higher than comparable neighboring trees; small limbs arising from the main stem at an angle of about 90°; dominant or codominant crown class; healthy, narrow, full, and even crowns; a rate of growth at least average for the stand; freedom from serious insect or disease damage; and evidence of good ability to bear cones. Trees were removed if they showed any spiral or twist in the bole; repeated crooks not directly attributable to mechanical injury; heavy, persistent branching; ramicorn branches; and diseased or insect-infested trunks or crowns.

During the tour National Forest personnel demonstrated climbing equipment and techniques and cone collection methods.

4/ District Ranger, Bena District, Chippewa National Forest.