

REPORT OF THE NEFTIC COMMITTEE ON THE IMPROVEMENT OF LARCH

David B. Cook, Chairman

The increasing interest in the potentialities of larch for forest tree improvement is a matter of considerable satisfaction to the members of your committee. Last year, Mr. J.D. Matthews presented a paper on Forest Tree Breeding in Britain, which dealt largely with their work on larch. This year, we have papers by Dr. Langner of Germany and Mr. R. W. Douglass of Pennsylvania.

The committee is glad to welcome a new member: Thomas E. Delong of Pennsylvania. This both strengthens our group and gives us better geographical coverage.

Dr. Chandler of Boyce Thompson Institute continues her work on the rooting of cuttings from larch, on which she reported last year. The Institute has recently acquired a new property in Dutchess County, where some three thousand trees have already been planted. Among these are selections from the best larch trees in the Institute's collection, including European, Japanese and hybrid larch.

At Cornell's Arnot Forest, in south-central New York, larch is being successfully used on some of the most exposed hilltop sites and is giving the usual excellent account of itself, outgrowing both pine and spruce on what is, at best, a difficult site. Additional blocks of known-origin material will be planted as labor and stock become available.

During the year, your committee has acquired several lots of known-origin seed of European larch, which have been numbered in the New York State Conservation Department's seed lot systems.

X-31 from Cavedino, Italy, in the Italian Alps
X-32 from Prigelato, Italy, also in the Italian Alps
X-36 from the Hautes-Alpes of southeastern France
X-40 from the Wienerwald in Austria

Seedlots X-31 and X-32 were received from Dr. Piero Bersano, Technical Director of Cartiere Burgo, Turin, and represent selections from the best larches on the Italian side of the Alps, Seedlot X-36 was a gift from M. Pierre Bouvarel of the French Forest Service through M. Constant, Forest Conservator at Gap. This lot represents something new in the Northeast, for it comes from the extreme southwestern end of the natural range of European larch. Its latitude of 44°30' is more nearly comparable with our own than the larch we have previously had, although its elevation of 5400' will be against it. Seedlot X-40 is from the Altlengbach district of Austria, a source recommended to us by Dr. Reinhard Schober of Germany. It came with the compliments of our good friend Fred Herbst, of Herbst Brothers, Seedsmen, of New York.

These lots were sown this spring at the Clearfield nursery in Pennsylvania and at the Saratoga nursery in New York. Limited supplies of this stock will be available for experimental planting in the spring of 1962.

At Saratoga we have also planted up some thirteen odd lots of larch species and races.

Our project to develop a roster of plus larches as outlined at Burlington, is still in the talking stage but we have hopes of making at least a start this coming year. Until, we can get data on at least a couple of dozen of what field foresters appraise as extra-good trees, and from a number of locations, there is little point in making detailed field examinations. We know that these trees exist but getting them on record takes time.

Clyde Chandler

REPORT OF THE NEFTIC COMMITTEE ON TREE SEED CERTIFICATION

(Read by David B. Cook for the Committee)

The Conference Committee on Seed Certification has been active for the past few months in New York helping to write the regulations in conjunction with the State's law on tree seed certification. This seed law, revised in 1956, requires specific regulations when tree seed is sold as certified. These regulations became effective June 8 of this year, and are now ready for application.

The Committee expects that the New York law and regulations on tree seed certification will serve as a pattern for other states., The recommendations are as follows:

- (1) That uniform state laws on this matter are essential for an effective tree seed certification program
- (2) That various states and seed agencies should tie in with the International Crop Improvement Association regarding tree seed
- (3) That Federal law be encouraged to regulate the importation of better tree seed into this country

The undersigned are attending the first annual Christmas Tree Growers' Association next week at Purdue University, and will present the matter of tree seed certification during the program.