

COOPERATIVE EASTERN WHITE PINE TREE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE AND NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF
RESOURCES AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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This year the Department of Forestry of the University and the Division of Resources Development of the State's Department of Resources and Economic Development entered into a cooperative agreement to establish and maintain an experimental eastern white pine clonal seed orchard. At this stage the University will be responsible for locating and grading plus white pines and for collecting scions. The Division will be responsible for the grafting of scions and for establishing and maintaining the orchard. In time the University will be responsible for collecting half-sib seed for progeny testing the initial selections and for making crosses among the select trees to obtain seed for producing trees for second generation selections,, The Division will grow progeny material and help in the establishment of progeny test plantations. The Department will make the necessary measurements of progeny material.

During the year we made nine selections. One tree from each of nine of the State's ten counties. This next year we expect to locate at least one tree from each county and will continue to select for the next couple of years. After that, field selections will become less intensive, but at no time will we not accept trees from "wild" stands.

In making the selections the field contact man is the County Forester, who is a University employee. Through and with him potential stands and trees are located and examined. In time we may ask the assistance of consulting and

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industry foresters (two of whom have already assisted); however, the contact man who will be responsible for initial examination and referral will be the County Forester.

In addition to the white pine seed orchard which will occupy about five acres, the Division is planning a one-acre clonal balsam fir orchard. Material for this has not been collected--no criteria for selection has been established. The Division is also planning to locate and establish a red pine seed production area.