

SEED PRODUCTION AREAS IN CONNECTICUT

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OBJECTIVES FOR SEED COLLECTION

To collect seed of known origin for reforestation in Connecticut.

METHOD OF ESTABLISHMENT

White Spruce.--Being exotic to Connecticut, plantations are cur only source. Two plantations that appear particularly good from the standpoint of color (for our Christmas tree clients) and growth habit have been set aside and top pruned to keep height at approximately 20 feet. The better trees will be favored and all other trees removed, giving us an ultimate spacing of 25 to 30 feet.

We have been collecting seed from these two areas for 10 to 12 years.

White Pine. --We are in the process of establishing two seed collection areas, one in a plantation, the other in a natural stand.

The seed production area in the plantation will be handled approximately as the spruce except that the trees will be topped at 30 to 35 feet.

In the natural stand, old trees, 50 to 60 feet tall will be felled as they have cone crops. With the help of Mr. Hunt, Forest Geneticist, U.S.F.S., we are marking younger trees to be left as the ultimate seed producers. These trees will be topped at 20 to 30 feet.

European Larch, Douglas-Fir, Hemlock.--Areas have tentatively been picked for seed collection. No selection work has started.

With the guiding hand of Mr. Hunt, U.S.F.S., we hope to make quicker progress in the establishment of seed collection areas.

There are no plans at the present towards establishing seed orchards.

¹Connecticut Park and Forest Commission.