INTRASPECIFIC VARIATION AMONG 200 STRAINS OF TWO-YEAR-OLD NORWAY SPRUCE

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A study of Norway spruce seedlings from 200 locations in Europe was conducted for two years in Maryland (at the Forest Tree Nursery in Harmans). Heights of different progenies ranged from 5.3 cm. to 19.3 cm. Fastest growing seedlings came from North German and sub-Alpine regions. The Baltic region and some high-elevation sections in the Alps and in the Carpathians were represented by seedlings that grew either slowly or were average. Two-year heights of different strains were strongly correlated (r = 0.825) to the dates of bud setting, ranging from August 8 until September 20, 1966. In general, the northern strains and the high-elevation strains set their terminal buds earlier and grew slower than the low-elevation sources from more southern regions.

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