

species bordering the grass lands with Douglas fir predominating at higher altitudes and western larch covering a limited intermediate area. Still further north and at higher altitudes an Englemann-spruce type develops, which, in turn, merges into a type composed of spruce and alpine fir. Lodgepole pine has taken the place of many of these associations in burned-over areas and is established as a distinct type.

The Interior Wet Belt, between the Rockies and the Interior Plateau, includes the Columbian Mountain system comprising the Selkirk, Monashee and Caribou mountains made up largely of Precambrian and Cambrian rock with intervening ranges of mixed formations varying from sedimentary to granitic rocks. The moisture-laden winds from the Pacific, having precipitated most of their moisture on the Coast and Cascade mountains, cross the Interior Plateau and give up what moisture remains when they reach the higher Selkirks and Rockies, forming this Interior Wet Belt centring on the Columbia River valley. Here the climate is fairly humid with snow taking the place of rain at higher altitudes and with wide range of annual temperature becoming more extreme and variable toward the Rockies. Forest types similar to those of the Coast have developed in the Interior Wet Belt. In the south on lower moister sites, cedar predominates with Douglas fir, Englemann spruce, western white pine, hemlock, larch, lowland fir and cottonwood. On the benches and slopes, hemlock, cedar and spruce are more important. At higher altitudes, Englemann spruce replaces hemlock, cedar disappears and the type composed of spruce and Alpine fir stretches to timber line. To the north, Englemann spruce and alpine fir gradually eliminate the other species.

The Rocky mountains are chiefly of Palæozoic rocks and the climate is extreme and variable with more precipitation on the western than on the eastern slopes. The forest includes portions of the Dry Belt to the south and the Interior Wet Belt further north, but the typical forest cover is of Englemann spruce with some white spruce and with alpine fir at higher altitudes. On the drier eastern slopes, lodgepole has established itself permanently in some cases on burned-over areas.

The northern interior belt occupies the plateaux and mountain ranges between the Coast mountains and the Rocky Mountain and Columbia systems, extending approximately between latitudes 52° and 58°.

This belt is characterized by limited precipitation, usually not more than 20 inches, and considerable variation between winter and summer temperatures. The forests are primarily composed of Englemann spruce and alpine fir in the southern part, and white spruce and alpine fir in the north, the alpine fir increasing with the altitude. Following fire, lodgepole pine or jack pine have to a considerable extent replaced the original stand. Black spruce and tamarack occur in the swamps, especially in the north.

In the Sub-Arctic Belt (comprising the Yukon plateau on Palæozoic and Precambrian rock formations, lying north of 58°) the general elevation is above 4,000 feet and the climate severe with a short growing season and scant precipitation. Here tree growth is slow and confined to favourable sites in valleys. The timber is small and of poor quality. It is, however, of great local value to miners and trappers. The principal type is composed of spruce and alpine fir with lodgepole pine on poorer sites and poplar and willow on better soils on burned-over areas.

Most of the commercially important species found in the Cordilleran Region are confined to that region. The type of the northern interior is composed of spruce, fir and lodgepole pine and extends across the Rockies to the foothills of