

of an irregular character. It occupies a middle position between predominantly coniferous forests to the north and the deciduous forests to the south. Precipitation varies from an annual average of 25 inches in the west to 45 inches in the east, and the growing season is from 100 to 150 days. Good forest soils of sedimentary origin are common, but southward extensions of the granitic areas of the Canadian Shield are also included within the boundaries of the region.

The characteristic species are white pine, red pine, and hemlock, associated with the maples, yellow birch, and, in some sections, beech and basswood. Aspen, cedar, and jack pine are widely distributed, and spruce and balsam fir are common in certain localities. Among the less widely distributed hardwood species are white birch, elm, hickories, white and black ash, bur, red, and white oak, ironwood, and butternut.

The pine forests of the Ottawa valley and Algonquin Park have been famous as one of the greatest of Canada's lumbering areas. Elsewhere in the region forests of mixed type predominate, with a considerable proportion of pure hardwood stands in the more favoured locations towards the south.

The Deciduous Forest Region.—This region in Canada consists of a small northerly intrusion from the great forest of the same type in the United States, and occupies the southwestern portion of what is commonly referred to as the Ontario peninsula. It enjoys very favourable climatic and soil conditions which permit of the growth of a number of tree species not found elsewhere in Canada. Because of its fertile soil, the area is completely settled, and the forests are now represented only by woodlots, parks, and small wooded areas on the lighter soils.

Among the characteristic trees are beech and sugar maple, together with basswood, red maple, and several oaks. Coniferous species are largely represented by scattered specimens of white pine, hemlock, and red juniper.

Among the less common hardwoods, which occur singly or in small groups, are hickories, black walnut, chestnut, tulip tree, magnolia, mulberry, sycamore, sassafras, black gum, Kentucky coffee tree, and a number of other species which find their northern limit in this region.

The Boreal Forest Region.—This region covers the greater part of the land area of Canada. It stretches unbrokenly from the Atlantic coast of Quebec westward to Alaska. Along its southern side it follows the limits of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Region, then skirts the open grasslands of the Prairie Provinces, and is terminated in the west in the foothills of the Rocky mountains. To the north it is bounded by the limits of tree growth.

The principal trees of the region are white and black spruce, balsam fir, poplars, white birch, and jack pine. Near the foothills of the Rocky mountains the latter species is replaced by lodgepole pine. In Quebec and Ontario, and as far west as a line running from lake Winnipeg to lake Athabaska in the Prairie Provinces, the region is, for the most part, underlain by granitic rocks of the Precambrian formations known as the Canadian Shield. Within the area described there are extensive tracts of good soil, formed from glacial or sedimentary deposits, but a larger portion of the region is characterized by shallow soils. Very considerable areas of bare rock testify to the disastrous results of forest fires followed by erosion.