

Boreal Forest Region.—This region comprises the greater part of the forested area of Canada, forming a continuous belt from the Atlantic Ocean westward to the Rocky Mountains and northwestward to Alaska. The white and the black spruces are characteristic tree species; other prominent conifers are tamarack, which ranges throughout the region, balsam fir and jack pine in the eastern and central portions, and alpine fir and lodgepole pine in the western and northwestern parts. Although the region is primarily coniferous there is a general admixture of broadleaved trees such as the white birches and the poplars; these are important in the central and south-central portions, particularly where the region grades into the Grassland Formation of the prairies. In turn the proportion of barrens (non-forested rock, muskeg and tundra) increases in the northern parts until the region finally merges into the Tundra Formation. In the southern parts of the eastern portions of the region there is considerable intrusion of species from the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Forest Region, such as the white and the red pines, yellow birch, sugar maple, black ash and eastern white cedar.

Subalpine Forest Region.—This is coniferous forest found on the higher slopes of the mountains east of the Coast Ranges. It extends northward to the divide between the drainage of the Skeena, Nass and Peace Rivers and that of the Stikine and Liard Rivers. The characteristic species are Engelmann spruce, alpine fir and lodgepole pine. There is a close relationship with the Boreal Region, from which the black and the white spruces and aspen intrude, more particularly in the northern parts. There is also some entry of Douglas fir from the Montane Forest, and western hemlock, western red cedar and amabilis fir from the Coast Forest. Other species found are western larch, whitebark pine and limber pine.

Montane Forest Region.—This region occupies a large part of the interior uplands of British Columbia, part of the Kootenay Valley and a small area on the east side of the Rocky Mountains. It is a northern extension of the typical forest of much of the western mountain system in the United States, and comes in contact with the Coast, Columbia and Subalpine Forests. Ponderosa pine is a characteristic species of the southern portions, to which it is restricted. Douglas fir is found throughout but more particularly in the central and southern parts. Lodgepole pine and aspen are generally present, the latter being well represented in the north-central portions. Engelmann spruce and alpine fir from the Subalpine Region become important constituents in the northern parts, together with white birch. The Boreal white spruce also enters here. Extensive bunch grass and sage brush communities of the Grassland Formation are found in many of the river valleys.

Coast Forest Region.—This is part of the Pacific Coast forest of North America. Essentially coniferous the Coast Region consists principally of western red cedar and western hemlock, with Douglas fir in the south and Sitka spruce in the north. Amabilis fir and yellow cedar occur widely and, together with mountain hemlock and alpine fir, are common towards the timberline. Western white pine is found in the southern parts. Broadleaved trees such as black cottonwood, red alder and broadleaf maple have a limited distribution in this region. *Arbutus* and *garry oak* occur in Canada only on the southeast coast of Vancouver Island and the adjacent mainland. These are species that have entered from the Montane Forest in the United States.

Columbia Forest Region.—A large part of the Kootenay River valley, the upper valleys of the Thompson and Fraser Rivers, and the Quesnel Lake area of British Columbia contain a coniferous forest closely resembling that of the Coast Region. Western red cedar and western hemlock are the characteristic species of this Columbia Region. Associated with these are Douglas fir, which is of general distribution, and, in the southern parts, western white pine, western larch and grand fir. Engelmann spruce from the Subalpine Region is important in the upper Fraser Valley and is found to some extent at the upper levels of the forest in the remainder of the region. Towards lower elevations in the west and in parts of the Kootenay Valley, the forest grades into the Montane Region and in a few places into the Grassland Formation.