

Grasslands and Parklands Floral Region, Western Floral Region, and Arctic Barren Grounds Floral Region. The Western Floral Region comprises the area covered by the Subalpine, Columbia, Montane, and Coast Forest Regions. A larger scale map showing the Forest Regions in more detail, prepared in 1956 and reprinted in 1963, is available from the federal Department of Forestry.

### Boreal Forest Floral Region

The great transcontinental coniferous forest occupies about three quarters of the area of continental Canada. It merges on the north into the Arctic Barren Grounds and on the south into the other Floral Regions. It reaches northward in the east only to the head of Ungava Bay but slopes steeply northwestward to reach the delta of the Mackenzie River. The cause of this slope is discussed under the heading "The Plant Environment" (see p. 49).

Except for southern British Columbia and the coastal and alpine regions of that province, the boreal forest extends from the Atlantic to the Pacific, its area being delimited by those of the dominant species, black spruce (*Picea mariana*) and white spruce (*P. glauca*—replaced in the west by the varieties *albertiana* and *porsildii*). White spruce favours upland sites, with aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) and paper-birch (*Betula papyrifera*) as common associates throughout nearly the whole area and balsam-fir and jack-pine throughout most of the southern half. Black spruce favours low-lying wet muskegs, where it is commonly associated throughout the area with tamarack (*Larix laricina*). Eastern white cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*), hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*), white pine (*Pinus strobus*) and red pine (*P. resinosa*) occur in the southeastern section, the cedar being an indicator of calcareous habitats in a region largely underlain by the acidic granites and gneisses of the Canadian Shield. Choke-cherry (*Prunus virginiana*) and pin-cherry (*P. pensylvanica*) are common throughout the Region and mountain-maple (*Acer spicatum*) is common in the eastern half. The ground cover is usually sparse, even in relatively open areas, the thick layer of old, very slowly decaying 'needles' of past years providing little encouragement for seedlings to root. Shrubs and herbs are typically oxylophytic (acid-loving).

Characteristic shrubs of the Region include junipers (*Juniperus communis* and *J. horizontalis*), various currants and gooseberries (*Ribes*), shrubby cinquefoil (*Potentilla fruticosa*), buckthorn (*Rhamnus alnifolia*), buffalo-berry (*Shepherdia canadensis*), red-osier (*Cornus stolonifera*), and several members of the Honeysuckle Family such as snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*), honeysuckles (*Lonicera*), bush-honeysuckle (*Diervilla lonicera*), viburnums (*Viburnum*) and elder-berries (*Sambucus*). Sweet gale (*Myrica gale*) is common around the margins of ponds. Sweet-fern (*Comptonia peregrina*) and bearberry (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*) favour dry sandy areas.

Typical herbs include wild lily-of-the-valley (*Maianthemum canadense*), bluebead (*Clintonia borealis*), members of the Orchid Family (calypso, *Calypso bulbosa*; stemless lady's-slipper, *Cypripedium acaule*; twayblades, *Listera*; coral-roots, *Corallorhiza*; rattle-snake-plantains, *Goodyera*), miterwort (*Mitella nuda*), goldthread (*Coptis groenlandica*), red baneberry (*Actaea rubra*), sanicle (*Sanicula marilandica*), sweet cicelys (*Osmorhiza*), bunchberry (*Cornus canadensis*), Indian-pipe (*Monotropa uniflora*), pinesap (*M. hypopithys*), one-flowered pyrola (*Moneses uniflora*), wintergreens (*Pyrola*), prince's-pine (*Chimaphila umbellata*), creeping snowberry (*Gaultheria hispidula*), cow-wheat (*Melampyrum lineare*) and twin-flower (*Linnaea borealis*).

Salt-marshes along the Atlantic Coast of this and the Acadian Forest Region commonly harbour such halophytes (salt-lovers) as arrow-grass (*Triglochin maritima*), alkali-grasses (*Puccinellia*), spike-grass (*Distichlis spicata*), sedges such as *Carex subspathacea*, *C. paleacea*, *C. mackenzii*, and *C. glareosa*, a bulrush (*Scirpus rufus*), black grass (*Juncus gerardii*), knotweeds (*Polygonum*), three docks (*Rumex maritimus* var. *fueginus*, *R. mexicanus*, and *R. pallidus*), coast-blite (*Chenopodium rubrum*), orach (*Atriplex patula*; *A. glabriuscula*), sea-samphire (*Salicornia europaea*), sea-blites (*Suaeda*), sand-spurreys (*Spergularia*), sea-chickweed (*Arenaria peploides*), seaside crowfoot (*Ranunculus cymbalaria*), Scotch lovage