

Section 1.—Forest Resources

Forest Regions.*—The forests of Canada cover a vast area in the north temperate climatic zone but wide variations in physiographic soil and climatic conditions cause marked differences in their character in different parts of the country; hence, eight fairly well-defined forest regions may be recognized. These regions, with the relative proportion of the total area of all forest regions occupied by each, are as follows:—

<i>Region</i>	<i>Percentage of Forest Area</i>	<i>Region</i>	<i>Percentage of Forest Area</i>
Boreal.....	82.1	Acadian.....	2.0
Great Lakes-St. Lawrence.....	6.5	Columbia.....	0.8
Subalpine.....	3.7	Deciduous.....	0.4
Montane.....	2.3		
Coast.....	2.2	TOTAL.....	100.0

Boreal Forest Region.—This Region comprises the greater part of the forest area of Canada, forming a continuous belt from Newfoundland and the Labrador coast westward to the Rocky Mountains and northwestward to Alaska. The white and the black spruces are characteristic species; other prominent conifers are tamarack which ranges throughout, 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 forests are primarily coniferous, there is a general admixture of broadleaved trees such as the white birches and poplars; these are important in the central and south-central portions, particularly in the zone of transition to the prairie. In turn, the proportion of spruce and tamarack rises northward and, with increasingly rigorous climatic conditions, the close forest gives way to the open lichen-woodland which finally merges into tundra. In the east there is, along the southern border of the Region, a considerable intermixture of species from the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Forest such as the white and the red pines, yellow birch, sugar maple, black ash and eastern white cedar.

Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Forest Region.—Along the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River Valley lies a forest of a very mixed nature, characterized by the white and the red pines, eastern hemlock and yellow birch. With these are associated certain dominant broadleaved species common to the Deciduous Forest Region, such as sugar maple, red maple, red oak, basswood and white elm. Other species with wide range are the eastern white cedar and largetooth aspen and, to a lesser extent, beech, white oak, butternut and white ash. Boreal species, such as the white and the black spruces, balsam fir, jack pine, poplars and white birch, are intermixed and, in certain humid portions of the east, red spruce is abundant.

Subalpine Forest Region.—This is a coniferous forest found on the mountain uplands in Western Canada. It extends northward to the major divide separating the drainage of the Skeena, Nass and Peace Rivers on the south and to that of the Stikine and Liard Rivers on the north. The presence of the black and the white spruces plus aspen and birch indicates a close relationship with the Boreal Region, and the characteristic species—Engelmann spruce, alpine fir and lodgepole pine—have boreal counterparts. There is some entry of blue Douglas fir from the Montane Forest and of western hemlock, western red cedar and amabilis fir from the Coast Forest. Other species found are western larch, whitebark pine, limber pine and, on the coastal mountains, yellow cedar and mountain hemlock.

Montane Forest Region.—The Region occupies a large part of the interior uplands of British Columbia as well as a 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

* A more detailed discussion of forest regions is given in Bulletin 123, *Forest Regions of Canada*, published by the Department of Forestry and Rural Development.