

west are three species: grand fir, which grows on the southern coast of British Columbia and in the southern interior; amabilis fir, found at intermediate levels on the coast; and alpine fir, which grows in the mountains and interior of British Columbia, the foothills of Alberta and southern Yukon Territory. The wood is commonly cut as pulpwood and, to a lesser extent, as sawlogs.

Next in abundance is a family of eight broadleaved deciduous trees: the trembling aspen, largetooth aspen, balsam poplar and five cottonwoods—the eastern, black, lanceleaf, narrowleaf and plains cottonwood. The most widely distributed is the trembling aspen, followed by the balsam poplar. The black cottonwood reaches the largest size in this family. In demand for veneer stock, this species and its hybrids will yield large wood volumes per acre on short rotations under intensive management. The other species in this group are used in the manufacture of excelsior and soda pulp.

Fifth among Canada's forest trees is the hemlock. Three species are native to Canada: eastern hemlock grows in the Maritimes, southern Quebec and Ontario; western hemlock at lower and intermediate levels throughout the coastal and interior wet belts of British Columbia; and mountain hemlock at higher elevations in the southern mountains of British Columbia, growing down to sea level on wet, exposed sites on the northern coast and the panhandle of Alaska. Western hemlock is a valuable pulpwood species. Eastern hemlock is a main commercial source of tannin and the wood is used for railway ties, wood-stave pipe, lumber and pulp. Mountain hemlock is not important as a timber species.

The tree responsible more than any other for British Columbia's world-wide reputation for timber is the coastal form of the Douglas fir, which is dominant in the forests of the south coast and the southeastern half of Vancouver Island. An interior form, the blue Douglas fir, is widely distributed throughout the Rocky Mountain system. Douglas fir is used extensively for lumber, plywood, construction timbers, piling and kraft pulp.

Next in order are the cedars, including arborvitae and yellow cedar. The eastern white cedar is found from western Nova Scotia to Manitoba; its wood is light and resistant to decay. The western red is of prime importance to British Columbia. In virgin forests, it attains heights of 150 to 200 feet and diameters of 8 to 10 feet. It is used for lumber, hand-split shakes, shingles, poles and posts. At higher altitudes on the British Columbia coast, the red cedar is replaced by the yellow cedar. The wood of this species also resists decay and is prized for boat-building and interior finishing. It is useful for poles, piling and as battery separators.

Finally, there are the birches. Most abundant is the white birch which grows widely throughout Canada. Western white birch is a large tree, reaching heights of 100 feet and diameters of three to four feet. It is found in northern and western Alberta, in British Columbia and also on the Atlantic Coast in the east. However, the most important hardwood tree in Eastern Canada is the yellow birch, which grows in southern Newfoundland, the Maritimes, Quebec and Ontario. Its wood is much in demand for flooring, furniture, veneer and railroad ties.

Canada is indeed fortunate to possess such a diversity of useful tree species. The white pine and spruce in the east, and Douglas fir, western red cedar and western hemlock in British Columbia have won for Canada its enviable position as the world's leading nation in forest products trade.

Section 2.—Forest Depletion

General information on forest depletion and increment as well as statistics on forest fires and fire losses are presented in this Section. The scientific control of the influences that account for wastage, such as forest fires, insect pests, etc., is dealt with in Section 4.

The latest information available on the rate and causes of depletion of reserves of merchantable timber is given in Table 4. These data are not directly comparable with those given in previous Year Books. For instance, earlier DBS figures for British