

The Forestry Branch of the Department of Agriculture administers all forestry matters in the province — reforestation, protection and woodlot improvement. The reforestation program has been increasing year by year, as many as one million trees being planted in one year on provincially owned and privately owned land. The Forest Nursery is being expanded and by 1975 will provide some 6 million trees annually.

The forest management programs include the provision of access roads into Crown land areas and woodlot improvement; improvement cuts act as demonstration areas for the public and for 4-H Forestry Clubs and Boy Scout and Girl Guide groups. Fire protection is not too serious a problem in this province as wooded areas are relatively small and scattered and are all accessible by road so that equipment can be rushed to the scene of a fire quickly and easily.

**Nova Scotia.** Of Nova Scotia's land area of 20,402 sq miles, 15,555 sq miles are classed as forested and most of the forested land is considered suitable for regular harvesting. Although 91% of the forest land in Canada is held by the Crown in the right of the federal and provincial governments, only 22% is so held in Nova Scotia.

Provincial Crown lands are administered by the Department of Lands and Forests through a staff of foresters and rangers. Extension personnel assist owners of small private woodlands. The Department administers the Lands and Forests Act as it pertains to all lands, and is responsible for forest fire suppression. Forest fire detection is facilitated through 35 observation towers and a six-plane aerial patrol service. In 1972, 568 fires burned 5,882 acres of forest. Ten fires exceeded 50 acres, and the largest covered 1,590 acres. Fire suppression crews and rangers with equipment are stationed throughout the province.

The forest industry is of prime importance to the economy of Nova Scotia, contributing directly or indirectly more than \$100 million to the gross provincial product annually. There are in operation some 350 sawmills of various types and sizes, one hardboard mill, two newsprint mills, one groundwood pulp mill, and one chemical pulp mill. These mills accounted for 151,000 Mfbm of sawn materials and consumed 937,000 cords of pulpwood in 1971, excluding 106,500 cords-equivalent of pulp chips from sawmill residues. In addition, 45,000 cords of pulpwood were exported and 6,800 cords of pit props, poles and pilings were produced.

The reforestation program, active since the 1930s, is being expanded as quickly as funds and staff permit. Experimental work on container planting, direct seeding, soil capability and site preparation continues. Efforts are being made to improve seed sources. Total softwood inventory as at July 1972 was 6.9 million seedlings and transplants.

Timber, pulpwood and Christmas trees are sold through public tender, and cutting on Crown lands is done under recommendation of resource managers of the Department of Lands and Forests. Management cruises, regeneration studies and experimental cuttings are conducted on Crown lands, and a program of operating these lands under long-term, integrated use management plans is under way. During 1971-72, 2,609 acres of Crown forest were thinned and improved, bringing the total acreage of Crown silvicultural treatments to 31,600 since 1965.

A provincial forest inventory, a continuous system designed to operate on a seven-year cycle, was in its second-to-last year in 1972 and plans were being made for the second inventory cycle. This will cover the province in ten years. The forest capability survey of the Canada Land Inventory was completed in 1971. Other forest capability studies are directed at yields, tree-breeding, and fertilization. A system of 1,750 permanent sample plots was completed to provide continuing data on growth and drainage. Aerial colour photography, begun on Cape Breton Island in 1969, is being extended to the remainder of the province.

Forest research is carried on by federal government agencies and by the Nova Scotia Research Foundation. Investigations cover stand improvement, tree nutrition, cutting methods, and insect and disease activities. Extension projects include fire prevention, a province-wide motion picture program, distribution of information on forest and wildlife conservation, promotion of the Christmas tree industry, a hunter safety program, woodlot improvement, preparation of material for the mass media, and technical assistance to sawmill operators.

**New Brunswick.** Of the total land area of New Brunswick (27,835 sq miles), approximately 87% is classed as forest land suitable for regular harvest of which the Crown, in right of the province, owns about 46%. About 2% is owned by the federal government and the remainder is