

Farm woodlots on the 623,000 farms across Canada cover about 22,780,000 acres (Census of 1951)—13 p.c. of the total farm area and over 6 p.c. of the total accessible productive forest. These small wooded tracts ranging in size from three or four acres to 200 or more acres are among the most accessible forests in Canada. Further, the woodlots of eastern Canada are in general highly productive because they lie in the southern parts of the country and frequently occupy soils that are considerably higher in quality than those typical of the northern forests.

2.—Tenure of Occupied Forest Lands by Province 1955

(Gross area in square miles)

Province	Private Forest Land			Crown Forest Land					Total Occupied Forest Land
	Farm Woodlots	Other Private Lands	Total	Pulp-wood Licences	Saw Timber Licences	Timber Sales	Permit Berths	Total	
Newfoundland—									
Labrador.....	—	—	—	15,375	—	—	—	15,375	15,375
Island.....	58	3,153	3,211	16,870	—	—	—	16,870	20,081
Prince Edward Island.....	540	66	606	—	—	—	—	—	606
Nova Scotia.....	2,884	5,581	8,465	700	—	44	—	744	9,209
New Brunswick.....	3,194	7,932	11,126	3,828	6,905	—	—	10,733	21,859
Quebec.....	9,180	16,333	25,513	72,256	8,958	—	—	81,214	106,727
Ontario.....	6,020	13,035	19,055	87,007	10,802	—	—	97,809	116,864
Manitoba.....	2,833	5,098	7,931	2,716	—	900	6	3,649	11,580
Saskatchewan.....	4,602	2,745	7,347	—	—	—	—	7,347	7,347
Alberta.....	4,477	4,561	9,038	—	2,500	150	50	2,700	11,738
British Columbia.....	1,806	9,219	11,025	747	2,779	3,594	608	7,728	18,753
Northwest Territories.....	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	6	6
Yukon Territory.....	—	—	—	—	—	15	—	15	15
Canada.....	35,594	67,723	103,317	199,499	31,971	4,709	664	236,843	340,160

Section 4.—Forest Depletion

A general account of forest depletion and increment is presented in this Section. Details of the scientific control of those influences that account for wastage, viz., forest fires, insect pests, etc., are dealt with in Section 5.

The average annual rate and cause of depletion of reserves of merchantable timber during the ten years 1944-53, together with preliminary data for 1954, are given in Table 3. Of the total depletion of the forests in the ten year period 94 p.c. was utilized and 6 p.c. was destroyed by fire. The utilization of 3,140,644,000 cu. feet comprised 39 p.c. logs and bolts, 32 p.c. pulpwood, 25 p.c. fuelwood, and the remaining 4 p.c. miscellaneous products. Approximately 6 p.c. of the total utilization was exported in the form of logs and bolts and pulpwood.

The more efficient utilization of timber that has been cut is one factor related to forest depletion, for there is little doubt that in the past too high a percentage of the sawn log was discarded. Changes of great significance have been taking place in the uses of wood, permitting the utilization of sizes and qualities previously considered unmerchantable. The development and the manufacture of rayon, cellophane and numerous other products in the cellulose industry is rapidly extending the use of wood. The increasing demand for plastic-wood products, fibre board and laminated wood is resulting in greater use of inferior classes of wood and therefore in the more complete utilization of forest resources and in the elimination of much waste.

The accessible portion of the productive forests of Canada cover an area of 582,000 sq. miles and constitute the reserve from which forest production will be obtained for many years to come. The supply of merchantable timber on this area is estimated to be 312,802 million cu. feet, of which approximately 159,800 million cu. feet are located on that portion of the area at present under lease or private ownership. The utilization in 1954 of 3,661 million cu. feet represents 1.2 p.c. of the accessible productive volume, and