

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FOREST TREE GROWTH

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An International Conference on Forest Tree Growth was held on the University of Arizona campus April 10-14, 1960. Forty specialists in the field were invited to present papers at the meeting; eight from Sweden, Finland, Denmark, and Canada, and the remaining 32 from 24 universities, colleges, and other research organizations in 17 of the United States.

The conference was first proposed in order to bring together people to discuss tree-ring studies. It became apparent, however, that before such a conference could be successful, it would be necessary to have one on the general status of knowledge concerning tree growth as an entity. The conference which emerged was one wherein specialists were invited to discuss six major fields involved in tree growth.

The first session, on Physiology, was organized and moderated by T. T. Kozlowski of the University of Wisconsin. In this session photo-periodic control, photosynthetic problems, auxin gradients, and the role of water were discussed in relationship to the physiology of the forest trees.

The second session, organized and moderated by R. Zahner, University of Michigan, was concerned with Soils and their importance to growth. Besides the nutrition of the soil itself, aeration and moisture were discussed, as were mycorrhizae and its importance to growth, and intraspecific root grafting which occurs in close stands.

Climate was the topic of the third session, which was organized and moderated by A. L. McComb, University of Arizona. The major climatic facets under discussion centered around temperature, moisture, and wind.

The fourth session, on Genetics, was organized and moderated by H. A. Fowells, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. The discussions were on variation and taxonomy, ecotypes of forest trees, elite trees, and the hybrid vigor of forest trees.

G. S. Allen, University of British Columbia, organized and moderated the fifth session on the topic of Dendrochronology. The major discussion was on the ontogeny and physiology of ring development, and one paper was presented on the application of dendrochronology to archaeology and dating.

The sixth session, on Mensuration, was organized and moderated by G. M. Furnival, Yale University. The end product of growth—the actual increase in board feet—was discussed in regard to even-aged and all-aged stands. The method of measuring individual trees and of determining the amount of growth from samples was brought into the discussion.

Of special concern to readers of this *Bulletin* is the fact that emphasis was placed on the growth of the tree (as expressed in tree-rings) as the culminating response of the tree to all of its controlling factors. In spite of all that is known regarding tree growth, we do not yet begin to understand the total phenomena involved in forest tree development and regeneration. Many basic problems of growth still remain to be solved before a full understanding of tree-ring development can be reached.

T. T. Kozlowski is presently editing the series of papers which will be published in the near future. Any inquiries on this publication should be addressed to the Secretary of the Tree-Ring Society or to the Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research, University of Arizona.

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