

"The soil hasn't yet thawed to the required depth in the felling sites on the permafrost", A. Shabalin, Director of the Syktyvdinskiy forestry enterprise, complains. "Nevertheless, we recently began to seed pine and spruce in selected areas where the soil had warmed up sufficiently."

With this goal in mind, the foresters have started to dig up the planting stock. The entire forestry enterprise has been rounded up to do this. Other enterprises in the Komi ASSR have started their planting operations. The difficulties of the spring campaign have been exacerbated by the severe shortage of conifer seeds. The three preceding poor harvest years have left their trace. The Syktyvdinskiy forestry enterprise's own stocks of pine and spruce seeds are low - just 40 kilogrammes. They need 600 kilogrammes.

The shortage of seeds has been made up for by long-term storage seeds shipped here from the Moscow Oblast. All the same, this is not quite enough. The foresters hope that the plantings will compensate for the reduction in the seeded area. The situation in the other enterprises run by the Ministry of Forestry of the Komi ASSR is also unsettling. They have also been forced to cover the planned seeding targets by additional plantings of pine, spruce, Siberian nut pine and larch. There is enough planting stock for this to be done - 80 million seedlings.

The Syktyvkar, Ukhta and Udor forestry enterprises are helping the Northern enterprises by providing planting stock.

Foresters in the Syktyvkar forestry enterprises are not only worrying about the current spring season but are concerned about next year as