

pine groves to be run with this biological feature of the trees in view. The forestry departments, however, are in no hurry to carry out these recommendations.

The fate of the pine groves remains, as before, in the loggers' hands. Again, as before, the timber is logged and utilized in an excessively wasteful manner. Almost 50% of the wood is lost during the logging and float operations, and no more than 2% of the entire volume of the take is used to make the main specialized assortment - pencil slats. Only one fifth of this "golden" 2% is actually used in production. The rest ends up as firewood. This is how our unique national treasure is being wasted. The worst thing of all is that this type of timber utilization has become an accepted practice.

The Siberian nut pine take could be reduced to one half or one third if the structure of the forest utilization policy were to be changed, and if the processing technology were to be improved. The harvest should be just large enough to meet the demands of the economy for types of products that cannot be made out of any other kind of wood. This would be good management.

The reference to structural changes is not just empty words. After all, we don't use valuable parquet and finishing wood from oak and other hard-wooded broadleaved species to make ties and telegraph poles.

How should the pine forests be logged? There is only one solution: by applying selective and intermediate felling methods. This is the only way to facilitate the fruiting of the trees, and to be able to get rid of the over-mature trees and those which do not produce a good harvest.