

## Bigger, Better, Faster Forests

North America's forests belong, in a very real sense, to future generations of home builders and home buyers.

The Canadian Forestry Service has six regional research centres concerned with improving quality and increasing production. Other research programs are sponsored by provincial governments and the industry.

Current programs include the introduction of more productive, non-native species, such as Norway spruce, Japanese

larch and European larch, and the enhancement of native species through selective breeding.

One research effort has produced white spruce with 15 to 20 per cent greater than natural growth. The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources has developed a hybrid poplar which can be used for veneers and in manufacturing fine paper.

Studies have found that when trees are scientifically grown they attain the bulk in fifteen years that they would gain in fifty to fifty-five years of unsupervised growth.

## Future Plans

"Both the United States and Canada are committed to maintaining an adequate supply of timber in perpetuity."

### ITC Report.

The realization that forests need to be managed and replenished came slowly but it is now fully accepted.

The emphasis in both Canada and the United States is on a systematic renewal and improvement through a combination of seedling plantings, direct seeding and natural regeneration.

In 1980 the Canadian Council of Resource and Environmental Ministers launched a nationwide coordinated program to increase the annual crop of harvestable timber. Since then there has been a 250 per cent increase in replanting and the annual rehabilitation of 240,000 acres of neglected backlog lands a year. The program also includes the weeding, fertilizing and spacing of almost a million acres a year.



Council of Forest Industries of British Columbia



MacMillan Bloedel Ltd.