

Unique Experiment Aimed at Genetic Upgrading of Forests

The first encouraging results in the restoration of our country's forest lands have been obtained by the scientists of the Institute of Forests of the Urals Division of the USSR Academy of Sciences. In many areas of the Perm' Sverdlovsk, Chelyabinsk and other Oblasts in the Urals that have never been completely "rescued" from the age-old taiga, young shoots of the finest species of trees are ripening in full force. These are not artificial plantings, but rather the regeneration of forest wealth by Nature herself, occurring through the application in practice of the theory about the creation of genetic forest reservations.

When marking out felling areas the largest, healthiest, most resistant and productive trees indigenous to the particular habitat are preserved from felling. Throughout the entire country mini-preserves are being established. In this way, the entire range of trees occurring under the natural conditions of a given locality can be preserved to save the gene pool from fellings.

The Institute has drawn up guidelines for the establishment of genetic reservations. An identify card will be made out for each reserve, that is, a unique charter of immunity, to which is appended a map of the locality. Indicated there on are the geographic position and quality of the reserve, and any authorized industrial activity.

Preserves have already been established in the Tyumen', Chelyabinsk, Orenburg and Kurgan' Oblasts, the Udmurt and Komi ASSRs and elsewhere.