

insects. Work is also in progress with a view to selecting the most effective fungicides.

Already we are experiencing the benefits of this collaboration. In the last few years there has been no substantial exfoliation of planting material in the nursery. In 1987 we succeeded in growing there more than 16,000,000 seedlings of coniferous species as against a planned figure of 13,700,000. The lespromkhoz earned more than 150,000 roubles in net profit from sales of the seedlings in the spring of 1988. We sold our planting material to 16 enterprises of the Karelian Forest Complex.

We have been much occupied recently in establishing a permanent forest seed stock based on selection principles. In our opinion, this is the principal task facing enterprises of the Forest Complex. Without access to our own seed stock, and consequently to our own planting material, it would be impossible to achieve a dramatic increase in the productivity of newly established plantations. Selection methods open the way to substantial improvement in the quality of arboreal species and to increases in their increment per unit of area. Accordingly, in the past year we have carried out a matching of forest seed orchards in four forest districts and in certain of them have embarked on the first intensive thinning.

With the object of determining the possibility of obtaining an additional softwood increment per unit of area through the introduction of composite tending, the latter including thinning and the application of fertilisers, in 1988 an experimental stand was established in a two-storeyed