

## Management, regeneration and cultivation

In the early 1800s, when Canada began harvesting its wood to provide squared timbers and tall masts for the British navy, the forests were regarded as a self-replenishing resource. But by the end of that century, Canadians had realized that they would have to cut carefully and replant the forest. While seed trees have been left after cutting and the size of cuts has been limited throughout most of this century, the Canadian Council of Resource and Environment Ministers estimates that 12 per cent of Canada's productive forest land is inadequately stocked and that 200 000 ha are being added to this backlog each year. Whenever a new forest area is harvested, 10 to 15 per cent of its land becomes unavailable for regeneration because of roads construction.

While the productive forest area declines, the world demand for industrial wood in 1990 is expected to be 900 000 000 m<sup>3</sup> more than that of 1970 (540 000 000 m<sup>3</sup> for pulp and paper and 360 000 000 m<sup>3</sup> for wood products).

Canada's research to expand its forest output includes introducing more productive non-native species, such as the Norway spruce, the Japanese larch and the European larch, and genetic breeding, such as the development of a white spruce that grows 15 to 20 per cent higher than normal. One of the most promising current projects is the development of a hybrid poplar tree by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.

*Seedlings are used extensively in reforestation.*

