

The merits of wood chips or sawdust have yet to be proven. Investigators will have to test the most widely diverse drainage alternatives at the "Zaitsevo" experimental site over the next three to five years. Systematic observations will cover groundwater levels, drainage runoff, soil moisture, soil freezing and thawing depths, and so on. Despite the fairly lengthy research process, however, both Soviet and Finnish land improvement experts are expecting a great deal from the new filtering material. According to even the roughest estimates, sawdust can bring a major annual return. We shall save thousands of cubic metres of sand, and, most importantly, improve drainage systems, which will naturally make for better agricultural crop yields.

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Page 1 (Full text)

Maymaksa, Archangel Oblast: Housing Construction Boom

A 225-unit apartment block has just been opened in the settlement attached to the No. 1 Sawmill and Woodworking Combine. This is the second nine-storey block built for the sawmill workers and envisaged in the development plan for the micro-region.

Just two decades ago Maymaksa was a remote outlying district of Archangel. It had wooden houses without any modern conveniences, dark plank roads and sidewalks. The micro-region now has an asphalted highway with a streetcar running down the middle. A cinema, shops and housing facilities have been built over recent years. The builders in Maymaksa are planning to put up three ten-storey apartment blocks and a children's care centre in the next few years.

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Page 3 (Full text)