

The greatest of the eight forest regions into which Canada is divided is the Boreal Forest. Stretching in a broad belt westward from the Atlantic Coast to the Rockies and the Alaska boundary, it includes about three-quarters of the country's productive forest land. Its trees are primarily coniferous, spruce, balsam fir and pine being the most important. Some deciduous species are also found, however, the most widespread being birch and poplar.

To the north, the forest merges into open woodland, which finally gives way to tundra. In general, the woodland trees are relatively small, and much of the area is more suited to pulpwood production than lumber.

South of the Boreal Forest in Eastern Canada, the Great Lakes/St. Lawrence and Acadian Regions make up about one-eighth of the country's productive forest area. The forests are very mixed, containing large numbers of both coniferous and broadleaved species. The main conifers are white and red pine, hemlock, spruce, cedar and fir, while the most important deciduous species are yellow birch, maple, oak and basswood.

Much of the original forest of these two regions has been cleared for agriculture, and small parcels of privately-owned forest occur in the agricultural zones. The forests of the area, most of which have been logged for more than 100 years and some for more than 200, form the basis of a large forest industry.

The Coast Forest Region of British Columbia is very different in character. The climate is mild and very humid, with an annual rainfall of about 100 inches a year. Forests here are coniferous, the main species being cedar, hemlock, spruce, Douglas fir and amabilis fir. Trees of the region attain very great size — up to 200 feet in height and six feet and more in diameter.

Though the Coast Region contains less than 2 per cent of the forest area of Canada, it supplies about one-fifth of all the wood cut. Lumber is the most important use for the wood, and most of Canada's softwood plywood is made in this region. It also supports a large pulp-and-paper industry.

The forests of the mountainous region of the British Columbia interior and western Alberta are also coniferous, and very mixed in species and character. Their composition changes with the local