

Greenhouse tests on control of damping-off are in progress. Three different fungi are being used as test organisms. Five different fungicides, each applied to seed at four different rates, are being tested.—P. J. Salisbury.

Pole Blight of Western White Pine.—The final series of permanent sample plots arising from the pole blight survey have been established in the Nelson Forest District. This work was initiated in 1950 and has the following main objectives:—

1. To study the progress of pole blight symptoms within individual trees.
2. To determine the nature and rate of spread of the disease.
3. To determine the feasibility of control through sanitation thinning.

Detailed records have been completed on 6,274 trees including 2,061 white pine. All trees have been tagged, their locations mapped, and measurements recorded with respect to diameter, age, and height. In addition, the pine have been classified according to a pole blight severity rating similar to that employed by the workers in adjacent regions in the United States.

Fifty-four plots, 0.2 acres in size, have been established. In co-operation with the B.C. Forest Service all pine on 34 plots, and on an additional 9.1 acres of isolation strip known or presumed to be affected by pole blight, have been felled and removed from the experimental areas. The remaining 20 plots will provide controls for the sanitation thinning experiments and provide information on the progress of the disease under natural conditions of stand density. Continuing records will be maintained to provide a basis of the management of affected stands similar to those under reserve.

Inoculation experiments initiated in September, 1950, are currently being re-examined. The natural spread of pole blight to this latter area in recent months has required the replication of inoculation experiments at widely scattered points distant from any presently known location of the disease. Work of this latter nature is currently in progress.

It is of interest to note the first authentic record of pole blight in living white pine in the coastal region of Western North America. Diseased trees have been located near Duncan and analyses have indicated its presence there for at least eight years. Additional scouting has subsequently confirmed its presence near Bowser and Qualicum Bay on Vancouver Island and near Hope on the adjacent mainland.

Cultural studies are being undertaken on a species of *Scopularia*, a fungus commonly associated with the disease and known to be capable of producing lesions similar to those found on pole-blighted trees. These studies are being made to determine biological requirements of the organism and the possible existence of strains. In addition, studies

are being undertaken to determine the perfect stage of the organism and the extent of the host range.—A. K. Parker and A. C. Molnar.

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