DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY · CANADA ·

Timber Talks

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AGE OF TREES

No. 4

Total age of trees is usually determined by counting the number of annual rings at a defined height on the bole and adding to this figure the number of years the seedling required to reach the height where the ring count was made.

The age/height relationship of white spruce seedlings growing on three sites near Prince George, B. C. was investigated to determine the number of years taken to reach breast height (4.5'). The sites were Alluvium, Aralia-Dryopteris and Cornus-Moss as described by Illingsworth and Arlidge. Site indices are 85-100, 70-90 and 55-80, respectively.

Average height growth of seedlings on all sites was generally slow for the first three years. Dominance of certain seedlings became evident during the second year. At the end of four years dominant seedlings on the most productive site (Alluvium) attained a total height of 13.7 cm.; on the least productive site (Cornus-Moss) dominant seedlings were 10.9 cm. in height.

Generally, annual height increased in magnitude with increasing age of seedlings. Dominant trees on Alluvium, Aralia-Dryopteris and Cornus-Moss sites attain breast height (4.5') in 13, 16 and 20 years, respectively.

REPORT: Survival and Growth of White Spruce Seedlings. S. Eis, Forest Research Laboratory, Victoria, B. C.