

MARITIMES FOREST RESEARCH CENTRE TECHNICAL NOTE

NO.
42

WEATHERADIO CANADA - A New Nursery Tool

The Atmospheric Environment Service of Environment Canada has recently instituted a continuous 24 hour VHF broadcasting service for weather information. Because many nursery functions - lifting, irrigation for frost protection, transfer of greenhouse stock, etc. - depend on the weather, this service is of potential use to Maritime growers.

The taped broadcasts, at five to fifteen minute intervals, include the following: the public synopsis and forecast; marine weather; the farm weather outlook (seasonal); the forestry forecast (seasonal); and selected weather reports and climate information. The weather is updated hourly, and forecasts are updated three or four times daily. Broadcasts originating in New Brunswick are in both English and French.

The Maritime transmitters are centered in two locations: Moncton and Halifax. From these two main transmitters and a number of rebroadcast stations in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, regional broadcasts are available to VHF receivers on three frequencies: 162.400 MHz, 162.475 MHz, and 162.550 MHz.

Although a crystal-controlled radio may be used as the receiver, less expensive receivers intended for weather channel reception only are available at radio-electronic shops. These sets can pick up all three

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CANADIAN FORESTRY SERVICE

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 ENVIRONMENT CANADA



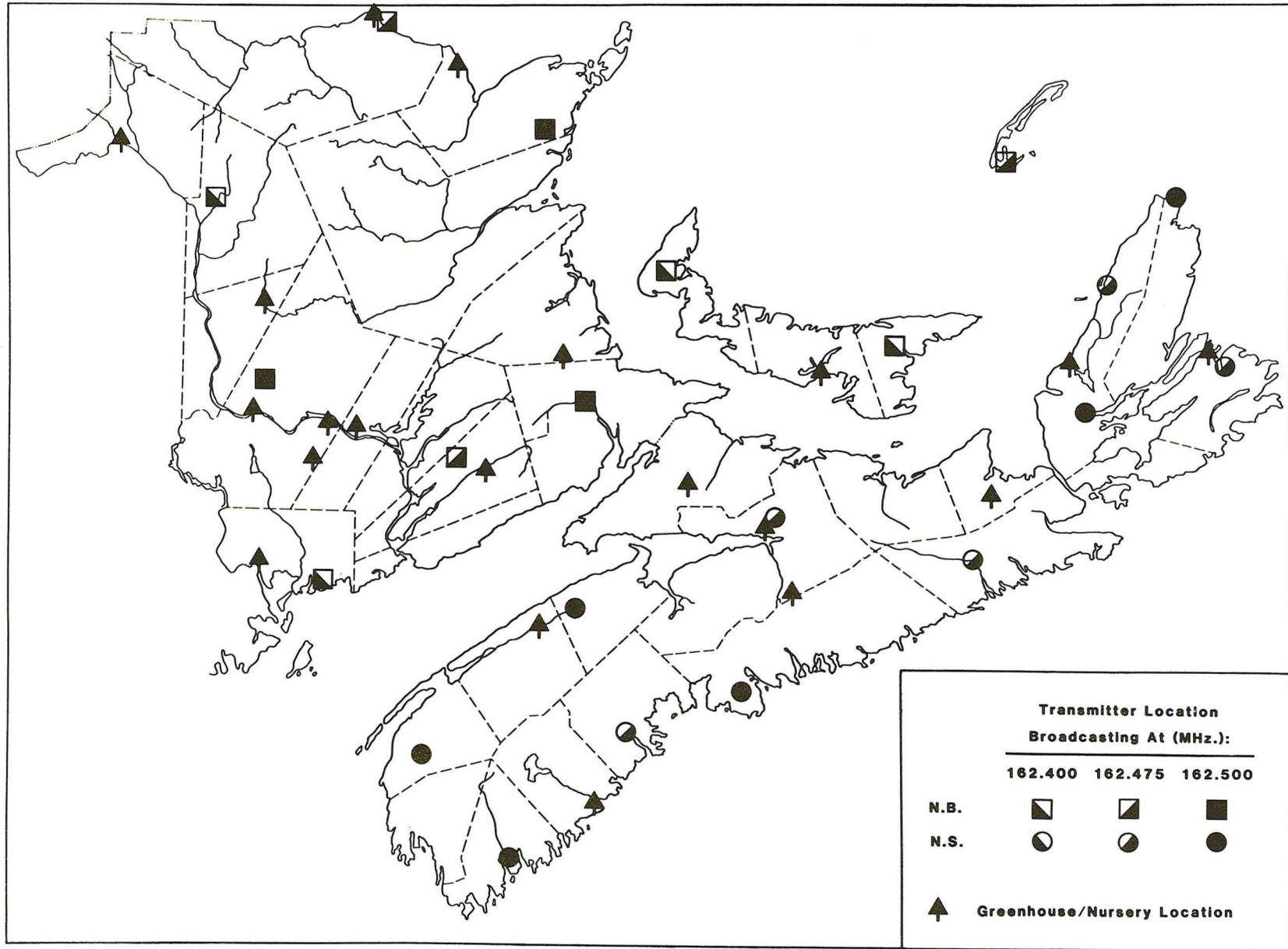


Figure 1: Maritime Weatheradio Broadcasting Network.

frequencies, and cost (1981 prices) between \$25 and \$85. The cheaper models have more limited range and may pick up interference from other transmitters (e.g. taxi companies). Higher-priced units are crystal-controlled. Some have, in addition to better performance, a weather warning alarm system. When a weather warning is issued by A.E.S., a special signal is transmitted through the Weatheradio network, causing an audible alarm and/or flashing light to be activated. The alert signal is triggered by the following weather warnings: heavy rainfall, heavy snowfall, freezing rain, cold wave, wind, severe weather, gale and storm alert. Frost warnings, have not yet been instituted.

The broadcast station and nursery locations are shown in Figure 1. All nurseries should be well within the broadcast range of the currently existing network.

For further information contact the Atmospheric Environment Service in Moncton or Halifax.

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