

Christmas Tree Growers Meet

Central New Mexico and southern Arizona produce the best Douglas fir seeds for Christmas trees grown in Pennsylvania, it was reported at the 57th Farm Show.

Seed from the Santa Fe National Forest of central New Mexico produced 15 percent top quality trees in Pennsylvania studies begun in 1966, said Dr. Henry D. Gerhold, professor of forest genetics at the Penn-

sylvania State University. He addressed the Pennsylvania Christmas Tree Growers Association.

Dr. Gerhold and associates are comparing trees grown from the wild seed with trees in controlled breeding experiments at Penn State. One specimen selected from the experimental trees produced 10 percent top quality trees. Another Douglas fir selected at Penn State produced 8 percent top rated trees in the six years studies.

The work is part of tree improvement programs carried out in cooperation with the Christmas Tree Growers Association and funded partially by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Heading up much of the field research is Edgar H. Palant, research assistant in forestry.

The trees were rated primarily for growth in height, density and shape, color, and freedom from defects such as the tendency to fork. The top rated trees do not require shearing, Dr. Gerhold said. The trials represent 15 wild seed sources within the Rocky Mountain area from Canada to the New Mexico border and 15 control-mated lots made from selected specimens at Penn State.

One of the objectives of the tree improvement program, Dr. Gerhold pointed out, is to arrange for commercial collection of high quality seed. This can be done through private negotiations or through commercial forest tree seed supply houses, he indicated.

The findings show that certain geographic areas produce trees with superior tolerance for Pennsylvania growing con-

ditions, he observed. From his breeding work he also found that careful selection of parent seed trees can produce superior offspring for Christmas tree industries. And knowledge and selection of seed sources likewise can improve the percentage of first quality trees, he added.

The Christmas Tree Growers Association, through its Pennsylvania tree improvement program with Penn State, has produced its third annual planting stock Buyer's Guide. The guide lists sources of the better seedlings for growing trees under Pennsylvania conditions. As the studies mature, they will provide added evidence for improving the Buyers' Guide, Dr. Gerhold affirmed.

SE Conference Theme Is Future of Dairying

"The Future of Dairying" has been chosen as the theme for the 1973 Southeastern Dairy Conference. The Conference, an annual event held at the Guernsey Breeders' Barn on highway 30 east of Lancaster, is sponsored jointly by: Allis-Chalmers, Curtiss Breeding Service, John W. Eshelman & Sons, New Holland Supply Company and Pennsylvania Power & Light Company.

February 6, 1973 is the date for this eighth annual conference. Mr. David Houck of Romandale Farms, Ontario, Canada will deliver the keynote address and will head the list of well-known speakers.

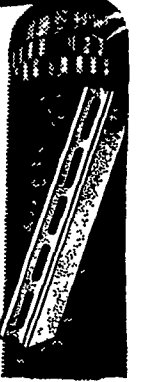
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everywhere are invited to enjoy the day and lunch as guests of the sponsors. The program will begin at 9:30 A.M.

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