

# FOREST RESEARCH NOTES

NORTHEASTERN FOREST EXPERIMENT STATION

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## REPORT ON FOREST TREE SEED CROP IN NEW ENGLAND IN 1957

Forest tree seed crops were generally poor in 1957 throughout New England, according to reports by observers.<sup>1</sup> Late spring frosts and below-normal precipitation were probably responsible for poor or failing crops of some species.

In general, most conifers produced light to failing seed crops (table 1). However, there were some exceptions. Rhode Island reported a medium crop of white pine. Norway spruce produced a medium crop in western Massachusetts and in parts of Maine and Connecticut. Northern New Hampshire had a heavy crop of hemlock and northern white-cedar.

Several hardwood species produced better seed crops in some areas than the conifers. Heavy crops of American elm were reported from southern Vermont and northwestern Massachusetts. Black cherry seed production was heavy in southern Vermont and New Hampshire. Both white and gray birch bore heavy crops in northwestern Vermont. White and yellow birches produced medium crops in northern New Hampshire and northeastern Connecticut.

Red oak produced a medium crop of acorns in southern New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and parts of Maine and Connecticut. The white oak acorn crop was also medium in southern New Hampshire, southeastern Massachusetts, and southeastern Connecticut. Medium crops of scarlet oak and swamp white oak were produced in southeastern Massachusetts. The poplars produced medium seed crops in western Massachusetts and northwestern Connecticut.

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<sup>1</sup>Based on 37 reports distributed as follows: Maine 13, New Hampshire 6, Vermont 7, Massachusetts 6, Rhode Island 1, Connecticut 4. State service (farm) foresters, forestry school faculty members, industrial foresters, and U.S. Forest Service personnel cooperated in supplying this information. The project was initiated by the Committee on Silviculture, New England Section, Society of American Foresters.

Table 1.--Forest tree seed crops in New England, 1957

Species	Seed crop classification <sup>1</sup>					
	Maine	N. H.	Vt.	Mass.	Conn.	R. I.
White pine	F-VL	F-L	F-VL	F-VL	F-L	M
Red pine	F-L	F-VL	F-VL	F-VL	VL-L	--
Scots pine	VL	VL	F	--	VL	--
White spruce	F-L	F-VL	F	--	L-M	--
Red spruce	F-VL	F-M	F-L	--	VL	--
Black spruce	F	VL	VL	--	--	--
Norway spruce	VL-M	VL	F	M	L-M	--
Balsam fir	F-L	F-L	F-L	--	--	--
Hemlock	F-M	F-H	F-M	L	VL-L	--
Tamarack	F-L	VL	F	--	VL	--
Northern white-cedar	F-L	F-H	F-M	--	--	--
Atlantic white-cedar	--	--	--	--	VL	--
Eastern redcedar	--	--	--	--	VL	--
Red maple	VL-L	VL	F-L	M	VL-M	--
Sugar maple	VL-H	F-VL	F-M	F	F	--
Black birch	--	VL	VL	L	L-M	--
Yellow birch	VL-L	F-M	F-M	L	L-M	--
White birch	VL-L	F-M	H	VL	VL	--
Gray birch	M-H	VL	F-H	--	--	--
Red oak	L-M	L-M	VL	M	L-M	--
Scarlet oak	--	--	VL	M	--	--
White oak	--	M	--	M-H	VL-M	--
Swamp white oak	--	--	--	M	--	--
Black oak	--	--	--	--	VL-L	--
Chestnut oak	--	--	--	--	VL	--
Basswood	L	F	--	L	L	--
Beech	F	F-VL	F	--	VL	--
White ash	--	F-VL	F-M	--	F-M	--
Trembling aspen	--	F-L	--	M	L	--
Bigtooth aspen	--	L	--	M	L	--
Eastern cottonwood	--	--	--	M	M	--
Black locust	--	--	--	M	VL	--
Black cherry	--	H	F-H	--	VL	--
Elm	--	VL-L	H	H	--	--
Yellow-poplar	--	--	--	--	F-L	--
Shagbark hickory	--	F	--	--	VL-L	--
Butternut	--	--	--	F	--	--

<sup>1</sup>Seed crops are classified as follows:

F = Failure: none, or few seeds on occasional trees.

VL = Very Light: few seeds on 25% of the trees.

L = Light: few seeds on 75% of the trees.

M = Medium: some seeds on all trees, many seeds on some trees (up to 75%).

H = Heavy: some seeds on all trees, many seeds on most trees (over 75%).

A heavy set of first-year white pine cones was reported from northern Rhode Island, Massachusetts, northwestern Vermont, and central Maine. Heavy crops of flower buds were noted on balsam fir in Maine. On this basis, both species may produce good seed crops in 1958.

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