

Fifty Important Trees Found in North Carolina

Forester Curran Treats of State's Greatest Natural Resource, Its Value and and Potentiality

(Continued from last week)

Other Hardwood Trees

Another group of hardwoods, extremely important for the future of North Carolina industries, are those which enter into the manufacture of furniture, veneer, and the interior finish of houses. This includes a large number of species, some of which occur in the mountains, others in the Piedmont, and still a greater amount is found in the swamps of the lower Piedmont in eastern Carolina.

In this group the most important is the sweet gum or red gum, which is the principal wood used by the furniture industry. It is also used in large quantities in the manufacture of veneers which go into packing cases. Red gum is found in the deep swamps along our great rivers, but only in those areas which are fairly well drained. It reaches immense sizes, and is of rapid growth, and is probably the best crop for the areas where it naturally occurs.

Young trees of red gum, have no red heart. This material is called sap gum, and is in good demand for furniture and veneers.

There are two gums which are commonly called black gum which are also of importance to the veneer and furniture people. The black gum of the mountains and Piedmont is only a scattered tree in the forest, and furnishes but a small amount for the commercial product.

The Black Gum

The black gum of eastern Carolina swamps is furnishing great amounts of timber, and is being cut for the first time. The trees are usually of medium to small size, in many swamps the trees are defective and a great number of individuals hollow. The bee gum, or rabbit gum so constantly a factor in the country life of plantation days, emphasize this characteristic defect of gum. This tree is fairly slow growth with long straight stems, free of limbs and will probably constitute the principal part of the cut from the swamp areas in eastern Carolina. Little is known about its growth, seeding, and other habits, especially with reference to renewing the forest after logging. This tree must be carefully studied on account of the great area it occupies, the desirability of its timber for veneer, and because the area it occupies is not at present needed for agriculture, though the drained gum swamps will probably in the future be classed as the best farm land in eastern Carolina.

There is a fourth kind of gum found in eastern Carolina in the deep black loams and better drained portions of the gum swamps. This is called cotton gum, or bowl gum, and to the trade as tupelo. It is a very fast growing tree, the seed is light and carried by the water and deposited by the floods on new formed land and in openings. The wood is soft, white, and a desirable veneer. The growth of this tree should be encouraged on the areas which are suitable.

These swamp areas which are the big problem of forest management for eastern Carolina, contain also, cypress and juniper, two kinds of bay, a sprinkling of holly, and on hummocks and low ridges, a considerable amount of loblolly, or forest pine. The largest trees of this species found anywhere are found in the borders and scattered in the swamps.

The Ash

Another constant factor of the better drained swamp lands especially along such rivers as the Roanoke, Tar Neuse and Cape Fear, and to a less degree, in the rivers of the Piedmont, is the Ash. There are a number of species found in Carolina called variously, white, red and green. Ash is also found in the mountain forests and of high quality and should be encouraged wherever found.

In the eastern bottom land the tree is very abundant in certain more restricted areas, even forming pure stands on the margins of the rivers. The growth is rapid and this is the most desirable tree to grow on these river bottoms subject to overflow. It is in great demand, brings high prices, and should yield the owner returns in forest crops, which are only equalled by those from pine and poplar.

Ash is consumed largely by the handle trade, and the automobile industry. The other trees which furnish wood for handles, come from four kinds of hickory variously called pignut, bitter nut, shag bark, shell bark, or white hickory. These trees are found in all parts of the State,

scattered or in groups in the oak forests, though never very abundant. The wood is not in great demand in Carolina at present because of the decline of the factories which manufacture buggies and wagons, and the handle plants consume but a very small quantity of the timber available. Carolina hickory is of high quality, and the tree is a desirable one to keep in mixtures.

Dogwood and Persimmon

Two other woods in demand in Carolina are dogwood and persimmon. Dogwood is especially in demand for shuttle stock. This tree is found throughout Carolina as an understory tree of pine and hardwood forest. It reproduces itself from sprouts and should be encouraged and protected wherever found. It is also one of the most beautiful of our forest trees, and lends charm with its snowy blossoms to our Carolina springtime.

Persimmon is used for similar purposes as dogwood, but little of it is cut in Carolina, as the trade desires large sized forest grown trees, and the greater part of the Carolina growth is from hedge rows, and trees left in clearing fields. It is of extremely rapid growth and will probably yield good returns as a forest crop.

There are three trees which occur throughout the Carolinas which yield high priced material for the furniture trade. These are walnut, black cherry, and holly. Walnut is found in greatest quantities throughout the Piedmont, is in great demand, and is usually a scattered tree of the farm lands. Farmers in Carolina should plant this tree about farm buildings, along streams, and in other waste spots with good soil, as it will add materially to the income of the farm.

Black Cherry and Holly

Black cherry or cherry of the mountain forest is a tall clean-stemmed tree of medium to large size, of very rapid growth. It is also found scattered in the hardwood forests in the Piedmont. It yields a high grade furniture wood, similar in character to mahogany, and should be encouraged where found.

Holly, with its evergreen leaves and red berries, is known to every one, and needs no description. It is found scattered in the forests of the Piedmont, and very common as an understory tree of some of the wet forests of eastern Carolina, where it reaches large sizes. Its wood is white, and used in the furniture trade for inlay. Its importance in Carolina is not so much for its wood, but as source of greens for Christmas decoration. Carloads of branches are shipped from the forests of eastern Carolina annually. The tree should be protected and encouraged, and the cutting of the branches should be carried on in a manner which will not destroy the health and vigor of the tree.

Some Other Groups

There are a group of soft woods included by the lumber trade in the so called hardwoods. These include the yellow poplar, bass wood or linden, cottonwood, cucumber and buck eye. Yellow poplar is the most important of this group, and next to walnut, the most eagerly sought of all our timbers. It was once abundant in the mountain forests, and the largest tree of that area, and now occurs principally as second growth throughout Carolina. It is of rapid growth, equaling the pines, and it should be encouraged where found, and in many areas planted as it will yield high returns as a managed forest crop.

Bass wood or linden or sometimes called lin, is a common tree in the

mountain forest, and occurs scattered in the Piedmont. It is of fairly rapid growth, and a tree to be encouraged where found.

Cucumber and buck eye, occur also scattered through the mountain forest, but are not as important as yellow poplar, though their wood is similar.

Along some of the eastern Carolina rivers a considerable amount of cotton wood is found. It is a very fast growing tree, and sometimes will be grown commercially as a veneer stock and pulp wood source. It is very largely planted as a shade tree throughout the State because of its rapid growth. It is not a desirable tree for this purpose.

Maple Birch, Etc.

The trees which constitute the bulk of the hardwood cut of the northern states, especially the region about the Great Lakes, are also found in the forests of Carolina. This group includes the maples, beech, the birches, sycamore, and several elms. Maples occur throughout Carolina. Red maple is a common, medium sized tree of the eastern swamps, the river bottoms, and along streams in the Piedmont, and scattered throughout the mountain valleys. It is usually irregular in shape, inclined to be knotty, and therefore produces low grade material, which however is readily salable.

Hard maple, or sugar maple, makes a fair growth, and is common in the mountain forests, and extends into the Piedmont. Produces a high priced wood, much in demand by the furniture trade. Should be encouraged wherever found.

Soft maple, or silver maple and box elder, sometimes called black maple, are found along the margins of rivers in the Piedmont, and eastern Carolina sections, but are not desirable trees to encourage.

Beech is found in all parts of the State. It is usually a slow growing tree, reaching fair sizes, and is usually knotty. It is an extremely attractive tree, the wood in demand for furniture, but not particularly desirable.

There are three birches common to Carolina forests. Red or river birch, is common along the river banks of eastern Carolina and the Piedmont section, often occurring in pure stands over a number of acres. The wood, however, is of low grade, and but little in demand.

Yellow birch, and sweet birch, are common in the mountain forests, and produce high grade wood, much used by the furniture trade.

There are numbers of elms common to the forests of the State, the small leaved elm of eastern Carolina is the best known, producing a hard wood which is readily salable. It is used for veneers, and in some extent for furniture making.

The white elm and the slippery elm of the mountain forests are of rapid growth, and produce wood which is readily salable. Sycamore, hack berry or sugar berry, are common trees of the river banks, especially in eastern Carolina. They reach large sizes, and the wood is used for veneer and furniture.

Chestnut Disappearing

Of the woods common to Carolina, only one, once abundant, is disappearing from the State, this is chestnut. There are large amounts of it still in the mountains, but a serious disease, known as the chestnut blight, is rapidly destroying this tree, and it is probable that chestnut will never be grown after this crop has been harvested, unless some disease resistant form is discovered. It was a very desirable tree, its wood in demand for furniture and veneers. It produced a large and profitable crop of edible nuts, and it is also our principal source of tanning material in the southern mountains. It was also used largely for fencing material, telephone and telegraph poles, and the owners are urged to cut and dispose of this material before it is destroyed by blight.

The telephone and telegraph pole people will not purchase this material after it is killed by blight, though the blight wood can be sold for tanning purposes, and the wood if sound, can into lumber for the furniture trade.

If we are not to lose the great tenneries of the mountain section, hemlock and chestnut oak should be encouraged by all woodland owners to replace the chestnut as a source of tanning material.

There are a large number of other trees common to Carolina forests, but of minor importance, because of their rarity, their small size or their characteristics of growth, which make them of little importance to wood-using industries. Many of these, however, add beauty and charm to the forest, and especially in the mountain section, should be cared for and protected, because of the great movement of pleasure seekers to these regions during the summer.

The rhododendron and the laurel, are among the small trees which add so much to the beauty of the mountain region. They also are used for turned goods and novelties, though the actual amount cut for these purposes, is very small.

Carolina's important woods of the future, are the pines, the oaks, yellow poplar, gums, cypress and cedar. They will furnish the bulk of the cut, and the timber land owners are urged to see that these trees are protected from fire, thinned to aid in the growth of high grade material, and harvested in such a manner as to secure desirable second growth.

The twenty million acres of forest land in North Carolina are capable of producing forever, twice the present cut of a billion feet, and to supply our present wood-using industries perpetually. The revenues which this forest wealth should produce annually for the State, may even in time rival that now produced by the manufacturers of cotton and tobacco.

FRONT AND REAR LICENSE PLATES REQUIRED BY BILL.

The house Saturday passed without a record vote a senate bill to require the use of two license plates, front and rear on an automobile. The measure was introduced in the senate by Senator Cannady, Democrat, of Johnson.

The bill is said to have the support of the revenue department. Representative Nash, Democrat, of Rich-

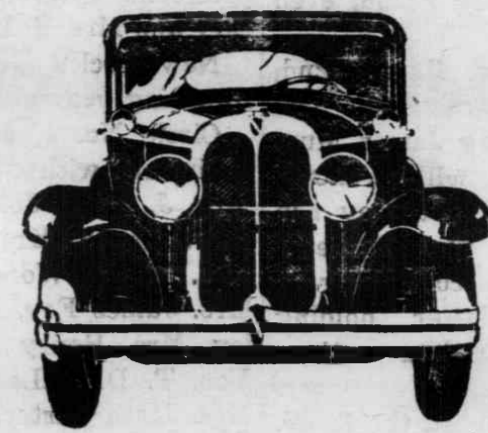
mond, said he had been informed that it would cost \$20,000 more a year to require two plates. Representative Pruden, Democrat of Chowan, said the cost would be absorbed by additional revenue. He said that at present two cars were often operated when only one license had been taken out, the owner telling the revenue department the original had been lost, securing

a duplicate and using it on the second car.

Any owner could hardly claim both license plates had been lost, he said.

Tom Tarheel says top-dressing his small grain with quick-acting nitrogen material paid him well last year and he intends to follow the same plan this spring.

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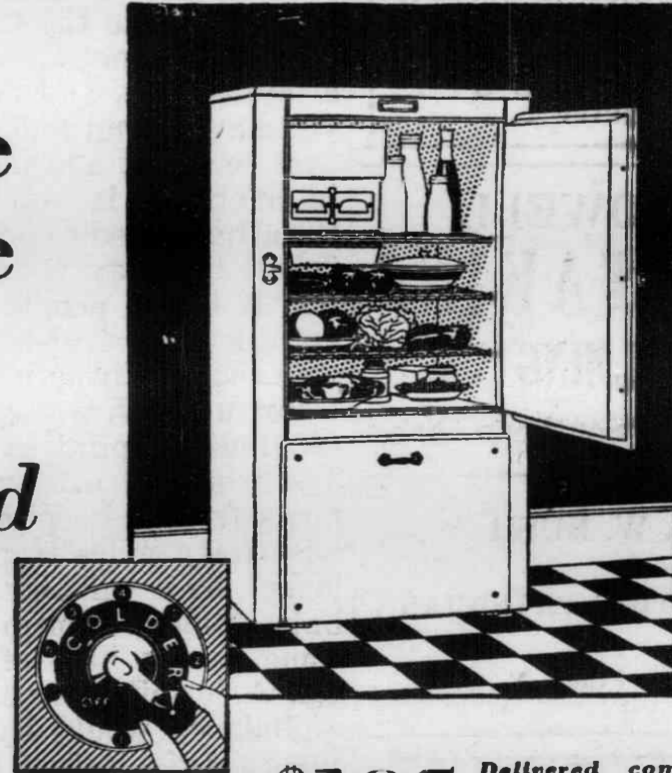
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