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# THE SHAPING OF PINE TREES

BY

## PRUNING AND SHEARING

H. C. Larsson



ONTARIO

ONTARIO DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND FORESTS  
DIVISION OF RESEARCH

HON. J. W. SPOONER  
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TECHNICAL SERIES



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## PREFACE

This report is based on experimental shearing and pruning of Scotch pine trees on the growth of the current year and on shoots one and two years old. The treated trees were examined for three consecutive years.

Trimming of shoot growth of both the immature and mature wood of the current season as well as one-year-old and two-year-old wood is followed by bud formation near the severed tip before the end of the growing season. However, trimming done later than August delays bud formation until June of the following year.

Immature shoots which were pruned before they attained half of their growth continued to increase in length. The greatest growth was obtained on the youngest shoots and the least growth on those shoots which were approximately one-half grown. Observations indicated that shoots can be pruned up to four weeks after the beginning of shoot growth in the spring and still increase in length.

Developed shoots can be trimmed by removing as much as one-half of their length without any serious, adverse effects on subsequent growth. However, if seven-tenths or more of the leader is removed, the shoots produced next year are generally stunted. Dwarf shoots also predominate on all trees pruned after the third week of July. This period coincides approximately with the hardening of the annual shoot growth.

One-year-old shoots sheared during the normal pruning season produce almost normal height growth the following year.