A Science Service Feature

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## WIND DISPERSAL OF TREE SEEDS

Some experiments have been made in the Pacific northwest by officials of the United States and British Columbia forest services to determine how far tree seeds are carried by winds of different velocities when released at the height of the average forest tree. The seeds used in the tests were of the following species: Douglas fir, western red cedar, western hemlock, noble fir, western white pine and western yellow pine.

The seeds were placed in a container attached to a 5-foot box kite. The container was provided with a tripping cord for releasing the seeds when the desired height had been reached. After falling the seeds were readily found on the surface of snow-clad fields.

Although the average width of the lane in which the seeds fell was about 35 feet, the greatest distance any seed was carried was 4,000 feet. This was a hemlock seed, released at a height of 200 feet in a 12-mile wind. With a 23-mile wind the maximum number of seeds, released at the same height, fell about 1,600 feet from the point of release and the extreme distance was 3,500 feet. In a 6-mile wind the maximum seed-fall was about 1,000 feet from the point of release, and the extreme flight 1,800 feet.

The distance traveled appeared to be determined by the shape rather than the weight of the seeds.



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