

HARVARD UNIVERSITY
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Members of the Harvard Corporation and Board of Overseers will pay a visit of inspection to the Harvard Forest, in Petersham, Mass., Sunday, May 9, it was announced today.

This year marks the thirtieth anniversary of the Forest, which is the oldest scientifically operated demonstration tract of its kind in America.

Conducted by Ward Shepard, director of the Forest, the officials of the University will inspect the many silvicultural and experimental projects of the station, particularly the new comprehensive program for advanced research on conservation of natural resources, undertaken by the Forest in collaboration with other scientific departments of Harvard.

The work of the Forest has been substantially reorganized in the past year by Mr. Shepard, brought to Harvard last May from a special advisory post in the United States departments of Interior and Agriculture.

In the past few months, the staff has begun the improvement of wild stands of timber throughout the entire Forest of 2,400 acres by thinning and improvement cuttings. This "cultural treatment," it is believed, will give a scientific demonstration of the best methods of improving wild stands of timber. Intensive experimentation was also started in the planting of valuable hardwood species to replace inferior cordwood stands.

To facilitate this research work, and also the Forest's purpose to serve as a demonstration of practical forestry,

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the staff has also organized a new system of roads and trails throughout the tract, has remeasured the experimental "sample plots" illustrating various cultural methods, and has begun a complete "re-inventory" of timber and young growth.

In addition to the general program of the Forest, the visiting members of the Harvard Governing Boards will inspect the research work carried on at Petersham by the staff scientists. Among these, Neil W. Hosley, Instructor in Forestry, has recently completed a field study of several years of the possibility of introducing into this area the Norway Spruce, a highly important tree species for commercial lumber production. Methods of controlling the gypsy moth by the planting of resistant tree species have been studied by Albert C. Cline, Assistant Director of the Forest. Dr. Paul R. Gast, through careful experiments on the growth of seedlings, has made fundamental discoveries concerning the nutrition of trees, which are expected to improve the technique of forest nursery practice.

Cooperating with scientists of the United States Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, and the Bureau of Plant Industry, the Harvard forest scientists have recently made investigations of important tree diseases. Among the matters studied were methods of reclaiming severely weeviled white plantations, feeding habits of gypsy moths in mixed hardwood stands, a newly identified fungus in Norway spruce, and the dying back of young oak twigs.

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The Harvard Forest was acquired by the University in 1907, and from that time until 1934 was directed by the late Professor Richard T. Fisher. From the beginning the tract has been conducted on a "sustained yield" basis, so that cutting at no time exceeded growth. The original growing stock of 10,500,000 board feet has been substantially maintained since 1907, despite the removal of over 7,500,000 feet of lumber and 4,000 cords of wood.

Under Professor Fisher, the Forest became a model for demonstrating the practice of forestry, an experiment station for research, and a field laboratory for students. On the average about 300 visitors a year, mostly students and forestry practitioners, are guided through the tract to observe the work.

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