VEGETATION AS AN INDICATOR OF THE FERTILITY OF SANDY PINE PLAIN SOILS IN NORTHERN WISCONSIN.  

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While making a survey and report on the soils of a proposed Forest Reserve area in northern Wisconsin, it was noticed that the sandy plains soils varied greatly in their ability to produce a second growth of vegetation after the removal of the original pine timber and the many severe fires which succeeded the logging operations.

The most sandy portions where the original timber was sparse or consisted mostly of Norway and Jack pine, with perhaps a few white pines, now bear little or no second growth. Small Jack or Norway pines 6 to 10 feet high appear in clumps and the poplar brush, if any, is also less than 10 feet high, while a thick growth of sweetfern, brakes, blueberries, or coarse bunch grass is the only ground cover.

In other places where moisture conditions appeared somewhat better and the soil slightly more loamy, the second growth is often 20 to 40 feet high and consists of poplars, white birch, cherry, alder, and young white pine, with but few Jack or Norway pines. The original timber also had been of a better quality here, being mostly large white and Norway pine, as indicated by the stumps.

In the final correlation of the soils on the basis of their value for agricultural purposes, the most sandy soil was described as being of low value for farming, while the more loamy soil, as indicated by the vegetation and better moisture conditions, was classed as being

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