

CROWN MANAGEMENT IN CONIFER SEED ORCHARDS

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Crown architecture in northeastern conifers as it relates to the numbers and positioning of male and female cones along shoots is reviewed. The importance of understanding the natural patterns of cone production as a tool for effective crown management is emphasized. Results from crown management trials over the past 20 years are used to demonstrate that it is possible to maintain tree height at acceptable levels through regular 'topping' without severely reducing cone production. A general discussion on adopting 'topping' as part of a conifer seed orchard management system is also provided.