

**PICEA ABIES GROWTH AT INITIAL STAGES OF FORMATION OF NEMORAL  
SPRUCE FORESTS (PICEETA COMPOSITA) IN THE CENTRAL FOREST  
NATURE RESERVE**

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The paper presents the results of the investigation of parameters of spruce growth in different habitats in the Central Forest Nature Reserve. The variants of stand formation in nemoral spruce forests (*Piceeta composita*) are discussed, namely in abandoned meadows, on burns, total windfall areas, in small-leaved forests and gaps in spruce forests. It was shown that average radial increments of spruce trees growing in the meadows as a pioneer species were 2.5 mm/year at a height of 30 cm above the ground and 4.8 mm/year at a height of 130 cm. The initial radial increments of spruce trees growing under the thin canopy and in the gaps were 0.6 and 1.2 mm/year respectively. The difference in initial radial increments was significant under those growth conditions. The spruce trees growing on cuttings and total windfalls are characterized by a wide amplitude of initial growth on the same sample plot (0.2 to 4.3 mm/year), but are not identified by average increments [IS1].

*Keywords:* European spruce, spruce regrowth, growth rate, Central Forest Reserve.

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