

A close-up photograph of a pine branch with vibrant green needles and a young, yellowish-brown cone. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green. The text is overlaid in white, centered on the image.

Skov på Island
Hovedfaktorer og figurer

Icelandic forests
Key factors and figures

Prehistory

- Mid-late Tertiary:
Iceland largely forested
- warm temperate
climate
- Late Pliocene:
Coniferous forests.
Boreal climate
- Successive glaciations:
Fewer species.



Historical times

- Late 9th century: Forest cover 25-40%
- Deforestation
 - Timber
 - Agriculture
 - Fuelwood
 - Climate
- Turn of 20th century: Forest cover ~1%

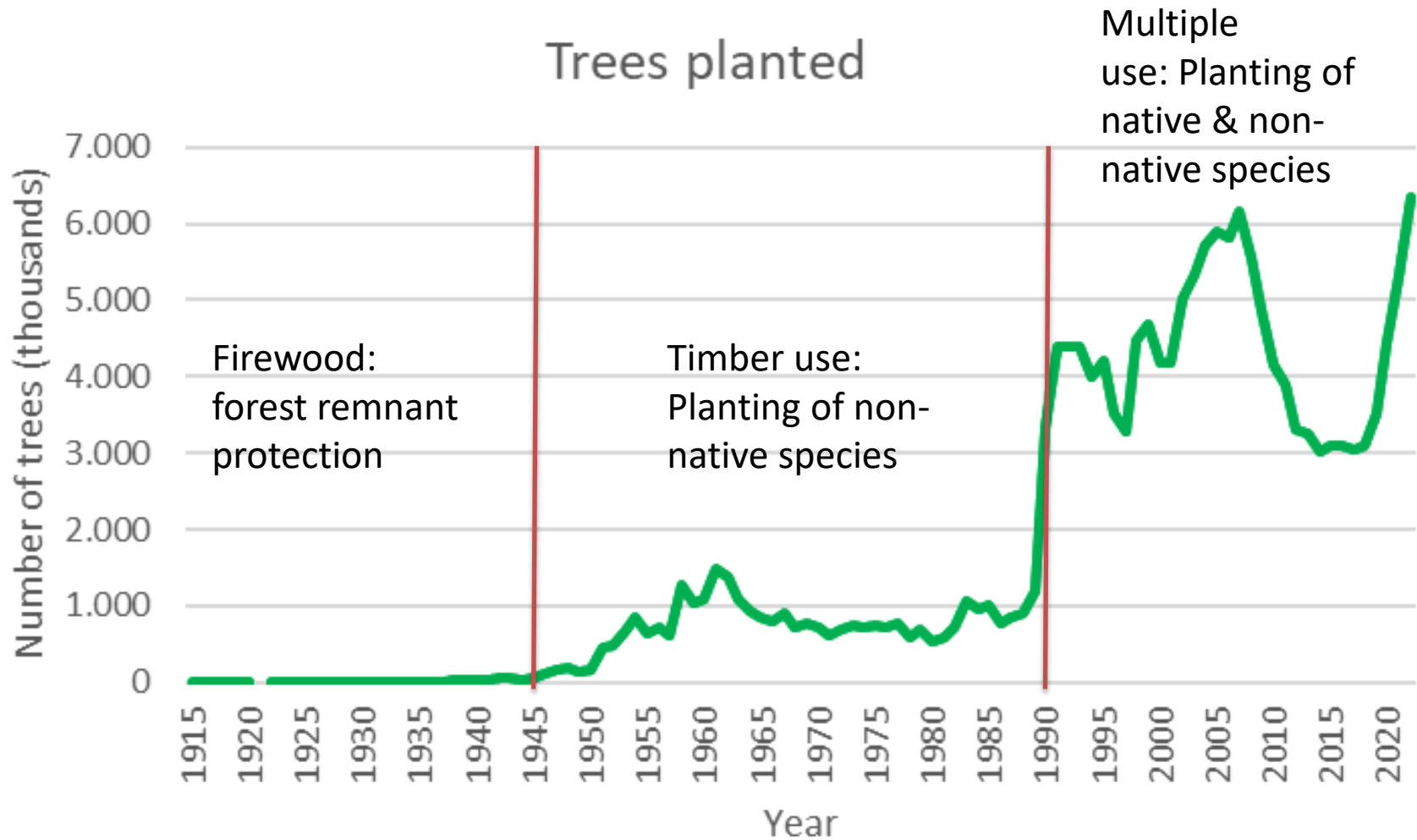


Organised forestry (1)

- 1899: Planting at Þingvellir
- 1907: Forestry and Soil Conservation Act => Iceland Forest Service 1908
- 1900-1950's: Conservation



Organised forestry (2)



Key players in Icelandic forestry

- Land and Forest (governmental)
- Icelandic Forestry Association (NGO)
- The Icelandic Farmers Association (Forest Owners Association) (NGO)
- Agricultural University of Iceland

Tree species - native

- Birch / Birk (*Betula pubescens*)
- Rowan / Røn (*Sorbus aucuparia*)
- Aspen / Bævreasp (*Populus tremula*)
- Juniper / Ene (*Juniperus communis*)
- Willows / Pil (*Salix phylicifolia*, *S. lanata*, *S. herbacea*, *S. arctica*).



Tree species - planted

- Most common (85-90% of planted trees):
 - Birch (*Betula pubescens*)
 - Sitka/Lutz spruce (*Picea sitchensis/Picea x Lutzi*)
 - Lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*)
 - Russian larch (*Larix sukaczewii*)
 - Black cottonwood (*Populus trichocarpa*)
 - Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*)
 - Engelmann spruce (*Picea engelmannii*)
 - Willows (*Salix* ssp.)
 - Pine (*Pinus cembra*, *P. sibirica*)



Today

