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PROLONGING LIFE OF WOOD SIDING

The useful life of wood siding in the South can be greatly extended by designing and constructing buildings so as to minimize wetting from rain, and to permit rapid drying when wetting does occur. While the following recommendations are most readily applied in new construction, they should also be considered when existing buildings are repaired:

Plan for good roof overhang, preferably of more than 18 inches for a 1-story house. A hipped roof avoids exposed gable ends. On 2-story buildings overhang is less effective unless canopies are added at the top of the first story.

Install eaves gutters to prevent roof runoff from wetting the siding directly or by splashing up from the ground.

Use wood that is free of stain, mold, or decay. Kiln-dried wood is generally safer than air-dried.

Use no sheathing paper more impervious to water vapor than a breathing paper. Breathing papers are asphalt- or tar-saturated felts (not coated) weighing not more than 15 pounds per 100 square feet.

Where rain is likely to strike the siding directly, use a combined water repellent

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and preservative to prevent seepage into the joints.

Best results from the water repellent-preservative are secured from a 3-minute, full-length dip after the siding has been cut to length. A second choice is to dip the ends after cutting to length, and to brush preservative on the rest of the siding. Treated siding is on the market, but sawing to length generally exposes untreated wood at the most vulnerable points. Such siding, or even untreated siding, can be given worthwhile protection by brushing or spraying of the vertical and horizontal joints after the siding is attached but before it is primed. --A.F. Verrall.

IMMEDIATE RELEASE PAYS OFF

Underplanted shortleaf pine seedlings, released from low-grade hardwoods prior to their first growing season, grew twice as fast the first season and four times as fast the second season as did unreleased seedlings.

In a study on Tennessee's Cumberland Plateau, suppressed shortleaf seedlings added only 3.4 inches to their height the first year and 3.0 inches the second. Where the hardwood competition was removed by cutting small stems and girdling larger stems prior to the first growing season, height growth was 5.8 inches the first year and 11.8 the second.

Height growth was even better where 2,4,5-T in diesel oil, at a concentration of 15.4 pounds acid per hundred gallons, was applied to the hardwood stumps or girdles to the point of runoff. Releasing with silvicide before the start of the first growing season resulted in pine height growth of 8.3 inches the first year and 14.2 inches the second. Where pine seedlings spent one year under hardwoods and were released with silvicide prior to the second season, height growth averaged 3.4 inches the first year and 6.6 the second.

Release so far has not improved survival. Approximately 88 percent of all seedlings are still living after two growing seasons regardless of whether or not they have been released. --T.A. Harrington.

SHOULD PINES BE ROOT-PRUNED IN NURSERY BEDS?

Root pruning of longleaf, loblolly, and slash pine seedlings in nursery beds did not check unwanted late-season height growth in a recent study at the Stuart Nursery near Pollock, Louisiana.

Different lots of seedlings were pruned once, at a depth of about 7 inches, on September 11, October 12, November 9, December 7, and January 4. Samples were lifted and graded on November 23, December 21, and January 18. Seedlings of morphological grades 1 and 2 were classed as plantable, except that those of unusual length were designated as over-size.

None of the prunings significantly affected the average height of the stock, the heights of the tallest seedlings, or the proportions of oversize, plantable, or grade 3 stock. These results were supported by an earlier study, at the Southwest Nursery near Oberlin, Louisiana; here single prunings in June, August, and November had no appreciable effect on the size of plantable seedlings. In some out-of-State nurseries fall growth of seedlings has been successfully checked by root pruning. The different responses may be due to differences in soil, time of pruning, seedling size at pruning time, pruning techniques, or weather after pruning.

Root pruning for the purpose of improving plantation survival of longleaf pine was suggested in SOUTHERN FORESTRY NOTES 120. The current recommendation is to prune once at a depth of 7 inches sometime in the fall but at least 1 month before lifting. More testing must be done before root pruning can be recommended to improve survival of loblolly and slash pine in Louisiana --Eugene Shoulders.

SEEDLESS LONGLEAF CONES CAN MATURE AND OPEN

Can southern pines, with or without pollination, produce mature, normally opening cones without the assumed stimulus of at least one fully formed seed per cone? This question has practical as well as theoretical implications--in operations to increase seed yields, for example, and in certain hybridization and other studies in forest genetics.

That longleaf pine, at least, can mature normally opening cones without forming seed was shown incidentally to a pollination study established in Sabine Parish, Louisiana, cooperatively with A.J. Hodges Industries, Inc., in 1958. A 'mix' of fresh longleaf pollen was applied to bagged flowers on 3 female parent longleaf trees. On 1 tree, 25 pollinated flowers yielded 7 cones containing 637 filled seeds, or 91 per cone. On a second, 7 pollinated flowers yielded 1 cone, containing 3 filled seeds. On the third, 30 pollinated flowers yielded 1 cone, and this cone contained no seeds whatever, either filled or empty.--P.C. Wakeley and T.E. Campbell.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

- *Briegleb, P.A., and McKnight, J.S. *The place of hardwoods in forest management*. The Unit, News Letter No. 83, pp. 10-11. March 1960.
- *Broadfoot, W.M. *Soil-water shortages and a means of alleviating resulting influences on southern hardwoods*. Proceedings, Eighth Annual Forestry Symposium, Louisiana State Univ., pp. 115-119.
- Cassady, J.T. *How research can improve the forest industries of Alabama*. Alabama Forest Products, March 1960, pp. 11, 13, 17.
- *Grelen, H.E. *Seasonal foliage applications of 2,4,5-T on saw-palmetto*. Paper read at Thirteenth Annual Southern Weed Conference, 1960. 4 pp.
- *Guttenberg, Sam, Fassnacht, D., and Siegel, W.C. *Weight-scaling southern pine saw logs*. Occasional Paper 177, 6 pp.
- *Johnson, R.L. *Cattle grazing in Delta forests*. Mississippi Farm Research, January 1960, p. 5.
- Krinard, R.M. *Deadening vines fails to improve cottonwood growth*. Mississippi Farm Research, May 1960, pp. 3,5.
- *Verrall, A.F. *Preventing moisture problems in wood siding in the South*. Forest Products Journal, March 1960, pp. 148-151.
- *Zahner, R. *Controlled soil-moisture experiments in forest tree-water relations*. Proceedings, First North American Forest Soils Conference, pp. 12-19.

In TREE PLANTERS' NOTES 40, February 1960:

- *Burns, R.M. *Copper carbonate--boon or bane?* Pp. 5-6.
- *Koshi, P.T. *Deep planting has little effect in a wet year*. P. 7.
- *Maple, W.R. *Rotary cutter prepares pine seedbed for natural regeneration while clearing brush*. Pp. 17-19.
- *Ursic, S.J. *What's your survival?* Pp. 3-4.

*Copies are available at the Southern Station.