

Virginia Tree Improvement Program

Session I

Our first grating was done about 6 years ago. At present we have established some 60 acres of loblolly pine seed orchard, 9 acres of shortleaf pine, and 3 acres of white pine.

Present plans are to expand the loblolly seed orchard by about 40 acres per year until we reach some 300 acres. The white pine orchard will be expanded at the rate of 5 acres per year to a total of 40 acres. At present, there are no plans to enlarge the shortleaf orchard. We are considering establishing a Virginia pine orchard.

These orchards are all located here at New Kent Nursery with the exception of the white pine which is located in the Piedmont on a state forest.

Also, we are preparing 40 acres for progeny testing. These tests will be started about four years from now when sufficient seed becomes available.

We have also established two seed production areas, consisting of 86 acres of loblolly and 62 acres of shortleaf. These areas are located on state forests.

Clark Lantz, who headed up the program here at New Kent for the past 5 years, has resigned to go back to school. Ron Wasser has just taken over the operation this month.

G. W. King
Nursery Superintendent