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SEED ORCHARD MANAGEMENT

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(Panel Moderator)

By way of introduction to this tree improvement and seed orchard session, I'd like to stress that we are no longer talking theory, but are talking facts. Such activity is on a very large scale. Fifteen years ago we talked about what we hoped we could do; now we know what we can do, at least partially. There are certain specific problems that have been encountered in tree improvement and I have asked the four speakers to concentrate on these. Progress has been rapid and improved seed are becoming available--our own cooperative program has enough seed to plant 25 to 30 million trees this year; and 2 years from now, we'll probably have enough for 100 million. I understand that the State of Georgia produced around 20 to 25 million trees from seed orchards this year. The Cooperative Florida Program also produced around 25 million trees. When all the seed being obtained from seed orchards are combined, it indicates the proportion of planting with improved seed in the Southeast. Within 10 years, nearly all planting in the Southeast will come from seed orchard seed. Remember the size of the planting program as the following papers are presented.

Some of the problems bothering us in tree improvement activities will be covered this afternoon. These include things such as incompatibility, seed harvesting, and progeny testing. Only minor emphasis will be placed on the hardwoods, which we know very little about.

After the panel members have presented their papers, there will be a discussion period.