

Seedling Quality and Nursery Diseases

by

S. J. Rowan

Principal Research Forest Pathologist, Southeastern Forest Experiment Station, Forestry Sciences Laboratory, Carlton Street, Athens, Georgia 30602.

Numerous pathogens can infect conifer and hardwood seedlings in southern nurseries; some attack roots and others aboveground parts. The quality of a seedling, as measured by its ability to survive and grow in the plantation, is dependent upon the interaction of numerous factors including nursery disease severity, physiological condition of the seedling, and the amount of stress imposed during the first year in the plantation. Nurserymen cannot control stress in plantations, but they can control diseases and the physiological condition of seedlings. Work is in progress to evaluate the effects of potassium fertilization in the nursery as well as of seedbed density on field performance of seedlings.