Precision Sowing Experiences At
International Forest Seed Company's Nurseries

A study was conducted to determine the benefits of precision placement of pine seeds when sowing a bareroot nursery. Comparisons were made between a conventional seed drill-type sower and a vacuum-type precision sower. Effects on seedling grades and cull percent were recorded and analyzed. Based on the results of these and earlier studies, a Love 816SL Vacuum Sower was purchased for the International Forest Seed Company nursery at Buena Vista, Georgia. Methods of operational sowing with the 816SL sower will be discussed. Sower performance, productivity and operational seedling production results will be addressed. Time saving ideas that increase the sowing efficiency will be shared as well. Data to support the theory that precision sowing improves the relative seedling grades, crop uniformity, and reduces or even eliminates the need for seedling culling in the packing operation will be presented. Actual daily production (linear bed footage) data will be given to support the feasibility of precision sowing in the narrow sowing "window" that bareroot nurseries have each spring.