

A REPORT ON GEORGIA'S NEW DEWINGER

S. P. Darby

Chief of Reforestation, Georgia Forestry Commission

Macon, Georgia

During the 1955 cone collection season, the Georgia Forestry Commission installed a Crippen Model EP polisher in its seed extraction plant for dewinging purposes. The machine was described and illustrated in the September 1956 Journal of Forestry (54: 579-581), and this report is the result of inquiries from various organizations requesting further information. The majority of questions asked were concerned with the single thought, "Is the machine mechanically sound after prolonged use?"

After approximately 50, 000 pounds of slash (Pinus elliottii) and loblolly (P. taeda) seed had been dewinged by the Crippen polisher, seed began to emerge from the machine improperly dewinged, (fig. 1, left). One will observe that most of the wing was removed; however, a short stub remained. It was felt that dewinging had become substandard and that this stub should be eliminated.

The machine was dismantled to expose the revolving brushes and the corrugated rubber liner. Although the brushes were in excellent condition, the liner was worn considerably. Figure 2, right, shows the liner that was removed from the polisher. The corrugations, which are normally about

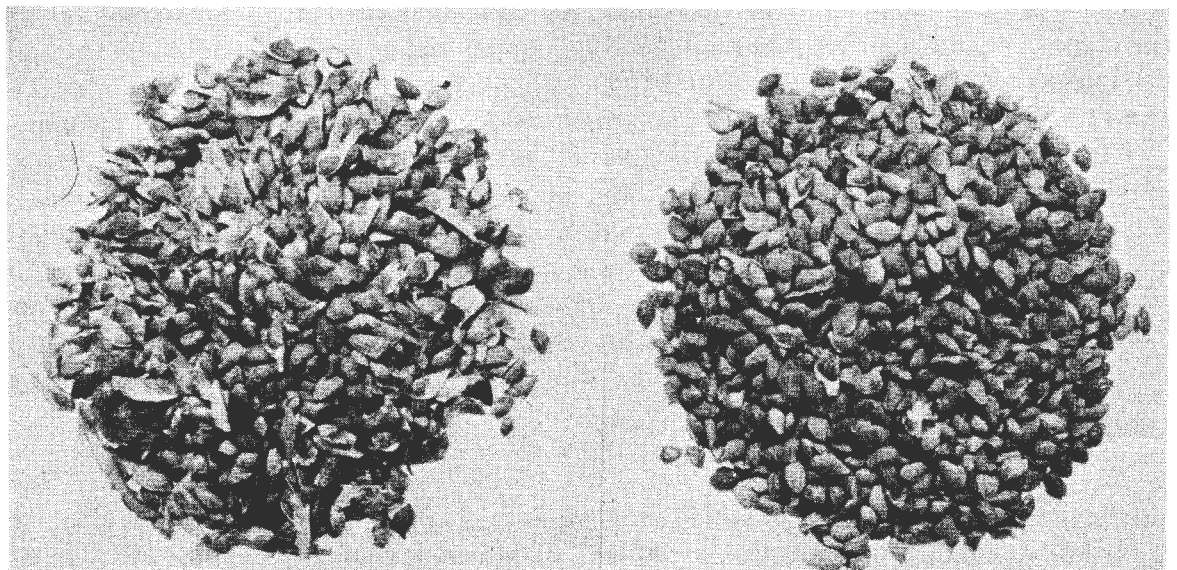


Figure 1. - Left, Seed improperly dewinged by Crippen Model EP polisher because of worn corrugated rubber liner. Right, Seed properly dewinged after liner was replaced.

1/8 inch deep, were completely worn off by the abrasive action of the seed. A new liner is shown in figure 2, left, for comparison. After installation of the new liner, the quality of dewinging became standard. Figure 1, right, illustrates the product obtained.

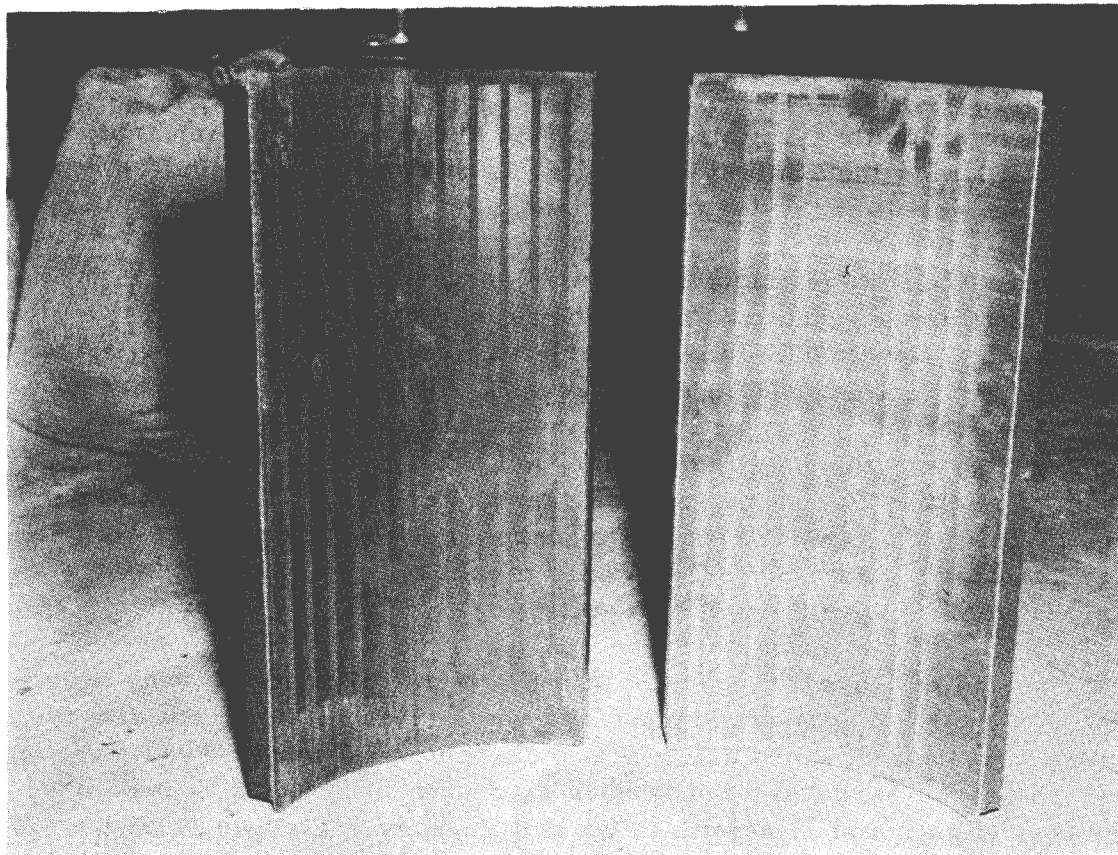


Figure 2. - Right, Corrugated rubber liner from Crippen Model EP polisher worn smooth by abrasive action of seed. Left, New liner; corrugations are 1/8 inch deep.

Considering lost time due to mechanical difficulties, none has been experienced. The dewinger has functioned properly, and no maintenance has been necessary except lubrication and cleaning. The polisher after two seasons of use is in excellent condition and has many more years of useful life.

In conclusion, I would like to point out that the Crippen Model EP polisher has performed most satisfactorily. An expenditure of \$49.50 for new rubber liner is certainly justified considering the machine has been used 2 years and has dewinged, as previously stated, 50, 000 pounds of seed.