

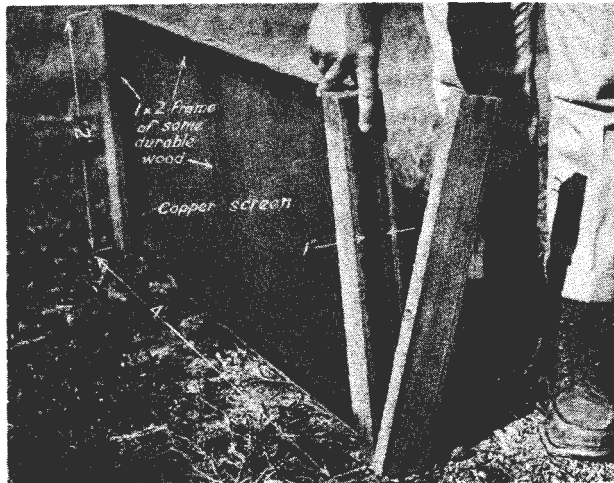
SEED STRATIFICATION CAGES

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The use of cotton cloth bags for stratifying Southern pine seed has never appeared to be too efficient. The bags often rot or are cut by rats while in the stratification process, causing a general mess in the mixing of seed and moss at the time of removal. Also, the jobs of tying the bags and the spreading of the seed layers evenly present a problem.

With these difficulties in mind, we have built screen wire cages which are durable



and do an excellent job. The cages are built very much like simple window screens, except the copper screen is placed on both sides of the frame, forming a cage between. The frame is constructed from 1" x 2" heart cypress and is two feet wide and four feet long with a center piece forming

a partition. The crosspieces on the ends are nailed outside of the wire, leaving an opening for filling and emptying the cage (see cut). The cage is closed by tacking a 1" x 3" piece flat across the end openings.

Sowing rates are calculated and weights required for one or more nursery beds are measured and put in the two separate compartments. Usually we put seed for one bed in each compartment. In this manner, no weighing is required after stratification and a check is had on the sowing rate after each bed is sown.

The frames with seed are placed in alternating layers of peatmoss and ice in wooden boxes constructed for the purpose and large enough to accommodate four of the frames. The whole is then placed in the cold room.

We have used forty of these frames for thirty -day stratification periods for the past four years and they show little sign of wear.