NEW BIRD REPELLENTS FOR LONGLEAF SEED 1/

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Morkit, used extensively in central Louisiana last fall as a bird repellent in direct-seeding of longleaf pine, has been withdrawn from the U. S. market. Several other chemicals are promising substitutes, though not yet fully proven.

In recent tests at Alexandria, good results were secured from Arasan Seed Disinfectant and Protectant (50% tetramethyl thiuram disulphide), produced by DuPont. Other Arasan compounds have not been tested as yet, and may be either ineffective or harmful to the seeds.

On a light rough in November 1955, longleaf seedling yields per acre averaged 5, 580, 5, 360, 2, 250, and 306 for Arasan, crude anthraquinone, Morkit, and untreated seed, respectively. Unfortunately, until licensing negotiations have been completed, crude anthraquinone cannot be sold as a bird repellent. On a fresh burn in December 1955, Arasan produced 6, 500 seedlings, Morkit 5, 700, and untreated seed only 33. In a spring test on a light rough, Arasan gave 7, 000 seedlings per acre, as against 2, 500 for Morkit and 140 for no treatment. Observations in all tests indicated that Arasan has rodent-repellent qualities. Although 50% Arasan is an effective repellent, it has some minor disadvantages. It is slightly irritating to the eyes, nose, and throat. Seed should be sown as soon as possible after being coated, as viability may be impaired by storage.

Recommended rate of application is 1 pound of 50% Arasan to 6 pounds of seed.

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