

TREE IMPROVEMENT WORK ON VIRGINIA PINE  
BY WEST VIRGINIA PULP AND PAPER COMPANY

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We made 116 grafts of scions from 23 select Virginia pines in the nursery bed at Charlottesville, Virginia, this past spring. On July 22nd we had 44 percent survival. Since Virginia pine is very susceptible to mold, we feel this 44 percent is very good, much better than the 18 percent we obtained last year.

This year we used two bamboo stakes at each graft and tied the open ends of polyethylene bags to the stakes, leaving an opening. We then put a kraft paper bag over the polyethylene bag by cutting holes in opposite corners of the kraft bag to fit it over the bamboo stakes.

The seed orchard design will be 15 x 15 feet in a diamond shape. It will be a 30-clone orchard with 15 clones from Virginia and 15 from West Virginia. Fred Trew has been doing the grafting and will establish the seed orchard next spring near Charlottesville, Virginia. Ninety-two grafts which are too big to hold over will be set out this fall. Since only 7 select trees have been used for scions from West Virginia, the other eight will be located this winter and scions grafted next spring.

In addition to the above project, the West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company is cooperating with the West Virginia University Forest School and the Forestry Division of the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources to develop seed orchards and seed production areas for shortleaf, white and Virginia pines in West Virginia. The program has not been completely set up as yet.

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