

COMMITTEE REPORT - THE PRODUCTION OF SUPERIOR SEED

Recognition of the need to consider the quality of the seed in all regenerations is gaining momentum throughout the South. The limited information on geographic sources now available should be placed in the hands of all. The wide gaps in these data are apparent to the committee and until such are supplied; it is urged that local seed of known origin be used in so far as possible. In all instances, seed source will be made a matter of record.

As a part of the program for superior seed, the following is recommended for immediate consideration:

1. All seed sown in the nurseries will be of known origin. Seed dealers should be requested to certify all seed as to species, purity, and origin. The latter will designate the State and County or group of Counties from which the seed is collected.
2. Seed source will be furnished all planters at the time of establishment. Continued and increasing emphasis should be placed on the selection of the proper species for the site to be planted.
3. In so far as possible, seed will be selected from trees native to the locality, of good form and rate of growth.
4. Organizations responsible for seed production or procurement are urged to establish seed production areas. These will be so managed whereby the best possible seed in the greatest quantity be obtained over a period of years. The effect of such designated areas is to serve as a source of seed over a period of years until seed is available from trees of proven superiority.
5. All in need of seed should be prepared to take advantage of bumper seed crops and secure seed in sufficient quantities to meet anticipated needs. It is urged that collections be limited to trees of better form and growth rates.

In order to implement the several points in the preceding section, the following lines of investigation are suggested:

1. A tabulation from which acreage and estimated seed yields can be estimated in connection with seed-producing areas.
2. A definition of an acceptable tree suitable for seed production.
3. The optimum number of trees to be left in a seed production area.
4. Coordinating with the geographic. Same committee determines the number and approximate locations of seed procuring areas for a given area.

5. Initiation of experiments pointing toward the stimulation of seed production, . This. would include the use of fertilizer of various kinds, also include banding, wounding, and other techniques.
6. Initiate a canvass of the larger landowners, both public and private, to ascertain the, extent each is willing to cooperate in the establishment of seed-producing areas.

The development of a seed orchard composed of plus or elite trees or their progeny is being left to the committee on phenotypes.

F. M. Cossitt, Chairman
Michel Afanasiev
R. T. Clapp
W. K. Beichler
P. T. Lannan
P. R. Wheeler