

OBSERVATIONS OF EARLY SURVIVAL OF LOBLOLLY PINE: ARE WE GAINING SURVIVAL ADVANTAGES WITH IMPROVED GENETICS

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The availability and affordability of improved genetic level of Loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda* L.) planting stock has increased over the past decade. A series of trial locations was established in 2014 across Mississippi in an effort to better understand the performance of the wide range of available seedling stock on non-industrial private forest (NIPF) landowner sites. For the purposes of this trial we compared two second generation open pollinated stock (OP) against three mass control pollinated (MCP) stock and three varietal stock. All seedlings were bareroot stock. Our observations of early survival indicate that MCP and varietal seedlings had greater initial survival than the OP stock types. The added survival gains further supports the benefits of utilizing improved genetic material stock types for private landowners.

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