

A Progress Report: Effect of Rate and Kind of Hydromulch
on Germination of Southern Pine Seed

by

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Abstract.--Turfiber, Hydromulch and Cellin mulch materials were found to be equally good for the germination of slash and loblolly pine seeds in Georgia nurseries. Pine straw was not as good for seed germination as these other mulch materials, but previous results indicate that pine straw is the superior mulch material if heavy rains occur shortly after beds are seeded.

In a recent publication, I reported that sawdust and pine straw were better seedbed mulch materials than was Hydromulch, and that the planting of seeds at a 1/4-inch depth increased the number of seedlings established per linear foot of bed (Rowan 1980). The primary reason for this increase was that fewer seeds were washed from seedbed surfaces during heavy rains when seeds were planted deeper or mulched with pine straw or sawdust.

In an attempt to determine if these findings were applicable to normal nursery operations, a study was established on 39 seedbeds (≥ 520 feet in length) in each of the two Georgia Forestry Commission

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