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An unusual type of stem girdling was observed while measuring 2-year-old Virginia pine seedlings during January 1958, on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. When several seedlings, whose stem diameter was just a little less than that of a common lead pencil were found partially or completely girdled at a point from 1/2 to 1-inch above the ground, blame was placed on mice. Then the real cause of the damage was discovered. Skim ice had formed around seedlings growing in low spots, and wind action caused the seedlings to rub against the ice. This abrasive action was sufficient to damage the seedlings. Once the ice melted, the cause disappeared.

