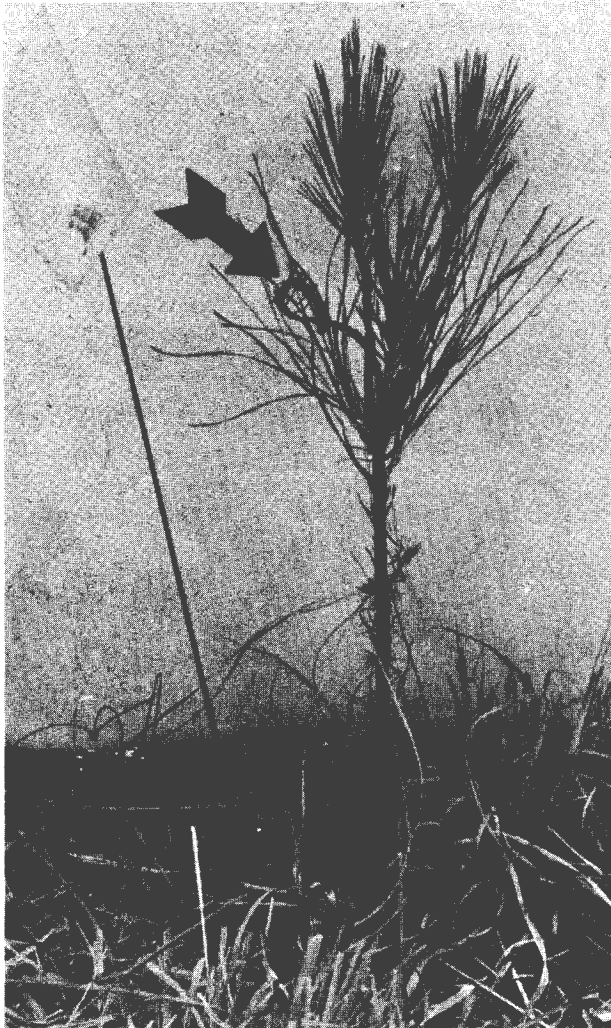


## GOOD SURVIVAL OF NONDORMANT LOBLOLLY PINE SEEDLINGS

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Loblolly pine seedlings that break dormancy while at the nursery or in the bale may still be good planting risks. In north Mississippi, mortality among nondormant seedlings, even when frost-nipped, averaged only one percent more than among seedlings planted while dormant.

During installation of a study in which periodic plantings were made from January through March 1961, unseasonable warm weather in February caused seedlings in the nursery and in bales to break dormancy. By the time the last were planted in mid-March, they were difficult to handle without breaking off the tender terminals.



Cold nights with frost in late March killed all the new terminals and left many seedlings looking brown and sickly. In contrast, those out-planted while still dormant remained green. Most injured seedlings recovered quickly, however, and put on new growth. Survival among the 15,600 planted while dormant was 98 percent on July 1. Survival among 8,400 nondormant seedlings was 97 percent.

Figure 1.--This seedling broke dormancy before it was planted. The terminal shoot (arrow) was killed by frost during the first week in the field, but the seedling was still healthy at midsummer.