

NEW SEEDLING PACKING MATERIAL AVAILABLE

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The Cloquet Forest Tree Nursery, The Northwest Paper Company, Cloquet, Minn., has been experimentally using a new type of packing material. From our results, the Wood Conversion Company, St. Paul, Minn., decided recently to add "Seedling Pak" to its long list of commercial packing materials. Seedling Pak is a white felt blanket of wood fibres about 3/8 inch thick. It is available both in rolls and sheets, cut to size. Its use is similar to placing a layer of sphagnum or shingletow around the seedlings.

The Cloquet Forest Tree Nursery uses two types of seedling packages: (1) small burlap-wrapped, string-tied packages holding 25 transplants (fig. 1) and (2) standard-size, wire-bound bales weighing about 80 pounds and containing about 1,000 seedlings. In packing the larger bales, rolls of 25-inch-wide Seedling Pak are used (fig. 2). One layer of dry blanket is placed on the inside of the paper wrapper and completely surrounds the seedlings. To supplement this outer blanket, two or three 18-inch square sheets are interspersed in the interior of the bale to hold additional moisture. When the bale is completed, it is submerged in water to allow the felt to become saturated.

In preparing the smaller packages, an 18 inch square of dry Seedling Pak is placed on an appropriate piece of burlap; the seedlings are then placed in the felt blanket and rolled into a compact roll suitable for machine tying. After the bundle is completed and tied, it is submerged in water for a few minutes.

After using the wood fibre felt blanket for two seasons, we have found it completely satisfactory from the standpoint of moisture-holding ability. From a cost standpoint, it compares favorably, at \$4.00 per cubic yard, with sphagnum peat. Several other advantages of using the wood fibre felt blanket are:

1. It is much cleaner to work with--the material is clean and dry until the final soaking of the bale.
2. No large overwinter inventories of sphagnum moss need be kept in storage.



Figure 1.--Small burlap-wrapped package using blanket of Seedling Pak to retain moisture.



Figure 2.--In packaging, a layer of dry Seedling Pak blanket is placed on the inside of the paper wrapper.

3. It has perfect uniformity--no missed areas inside the bundle.
4. It is readily available.
5. Seedling Pak eliminates the danger of sporotrichosis (a serious fungus infection often found on people handling sphagnum moss).