

Chemical Debarking of Trees Will Open New Income on Solanco Farms

By LF Staff Reporter

Where last year Southern Lancaster County provided \$26,400 income from pulpwood for paper, a potential of four to six times that amount is not impossible, according to two specialists from the paper industry.

Visiting Lancaster Farming this week were Harold W Geiger, forester for the Gladfelter Pulp Wood Co of Spring Grove, Pa., and Joseph Lesley, R2 Oxford, a resident of Lancaster County's Colerain Township, an independent buyer of pulpwood for Gladfelter.

These two men explained the worth and possibilities of tree farming in the hills of Southern Lancaster County, where timbers extend as far as the eye can

see.

Trees Chemically Debarked

One of the biggest bugaboos of the pulpwood production problem has been solved. Today trees — through the use of chemicals — may be debarked while still standing. When toppled, they are ready to be trimmed and sawed and shipped.

Right now is the time when farmers should consider possibilities of this new source of income, the two men told. Chemical treatment of trees for debarking is preferred during the season of heavy sap-flow, or what is known as the sap peeling season, late May, all of June and early July.

Trees are girdled. A band of bark six inches wide or more is removed about stump height.

Girdling, Then Debarking



Here a tree that someday will be paper is girdled by axe prior to application of chemical which will completely debark the tree within a matter of weeks. Specialists urge girdling be done at lowest levels possible to insure full utilization of the wood.



Bark on a chemically-treated tree is easily removed as shown in the photo above. The tree, which has been killed, is easily cleared of bark for consignment to pulpwood mills.

A chemical containing a 40 per cent sodium arsenate solution is painted or sprayed on the band of wood.

Treated trees die quickly within a week or so after treatment. During the sap flow, this killing solution travels through the sap channels rapidly. In fact, the Gladfelter firm made a test, using radioactive materials in the sodium arsenate solution applied at the base of the tree.

Using a Geiger counter, the specialists traced the flow of the killing solution up the tree. The day was sunny, the sap flowing fast. Within four hours, radioactive traces were recorded on the counter in leaves at the extreme top of the tree.

Chemical debarking is comparatively new. But it is saving untold hours of sap peeling. After trees die, the bark separates from the trunk, hanging in strips that may be easily removed.

All of the oaks, poplar, gum, elm and walnut will usually peel in from two to three months following treatment, sometimes as soon as weeks. Others, such as the pines, hemlock, aspen, maple, cherry, beech and birch, will peel best if they are not cut until some winter freezing and thawing have taken place. On these, frost action helps loosen the bark, saving time and labor.

Ash, on the other hand, does not respond too well to this chemical debarking process.

Once treated, trees should be fenced with electric wire to prevent livestock from coming into contact with the highly poisonous solution. However, addition of creosote in the past year has made the chemical lose its appeal to cattle and deer. Its use has been approved on the state game lands. A month after treatment, the timbers may be reopened to grazing.

\$6 Per Cord Differential

Does chemical debarking pay? A differential of \$6 per cord is often paid for chemically debarked trees. Equipment, labor and chemicals may cost about \$1.00 to \$1.10, still providing the tree farmer with a good margin.

"We are seeking more wood from the Lancaster and York county regions, seeking pulpwood closer home if it is available," the two men told Lancaster Farming.

Gladfelter produces fine quality, specialty papers, book, offset, ledger, bond.

Each of these require that the paper be truly white. Any trace of bark in a batch of pulpwood may produce discoloration that rules out use of such pulp in specialty papers.

Chemical debarking is opening a new source of income during the fall and winter months, but the two representatives emphasize that this is the season to begin treatment.

In addition to Mr. Lesley, services of Ray Brooks, full-time conservation forester for Gladfelter, are available free of charge to those considering tree farming for the paper industry.

"It's a matter of pulpwood versus saw timber," Mr. Geiger told. Wood properly debarked — and today this process is simple — brings a much higher price.

Many Advantages Listed

Tests are still underway to determine various phases of chemical debarking, but so far results



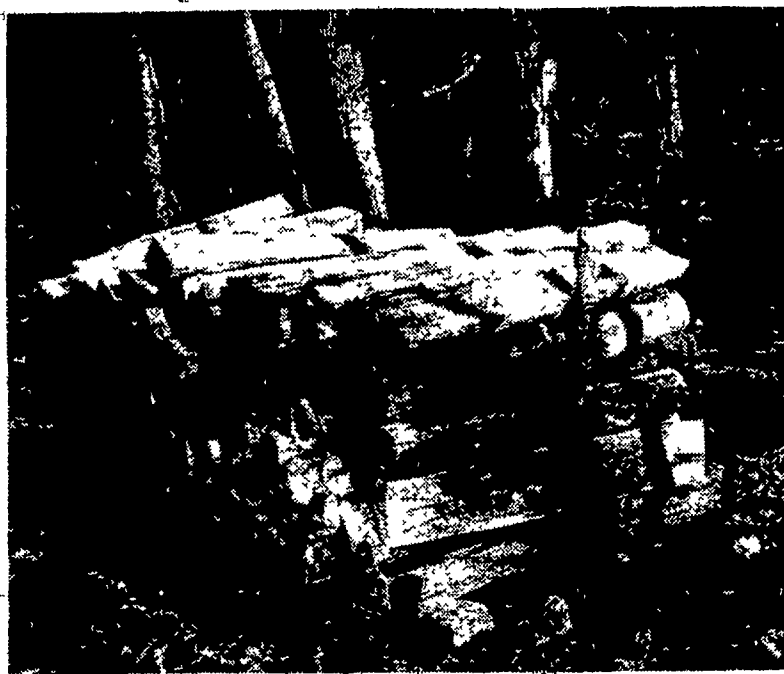
Trees, when felled, may be easily peeled following treatment with a 40 per cent sodium arsenate solution. In the background is another tree, showing the black band of chemical which killed the tree, causing the bark to readily separate from the trunk. Here a tree is sappeeled.

are very encouraging. In a 2400-tree test project near Syracuse, it was found that within 48 hours, 95 per cent of the arsenic was gone from the face of the girdle.

TREE PROGRAM WORKS

RICHMOND, Va. — Governor Thomas B. Stanley's "Plant More Trees" program has reached its first year's goal of planting 20 million seedlings. The Virginia Division of Forestry recently reported it could have sold 3 million more seedlings but its supply was exhausted.

Pulpwood-Chemically Treated



Chemically treated pulpwood, completely debarked, is ricked for seasoning and shipment to paper mills. Through chemical debarking, a new era of tree farming to supply the ever-increasing needs of the paper industry is developing. Note trees in background which have been treated and whose bark is loosening.

There are many advantages to this process. Wood may be stored on the stump until time and labor are available for cutting. Bark is removed easily and inexpensively. Peeling may be done any time of the year, unless temperatures are low and the bark freezes to the trees. There are fewer hang-ups on other trees due to dead, brittle tops of treated trees. Little or no felling damage results to younger trees to be left standing.

There is no surface pitch on wood from treated pines or other evergreen trees.

Most of all, there is increased income from peeled wood sales, the wood is easier to split, and woodlot improvement is made easier. Only trees that should be cut out are treated.

There is a new field of farming opening in Southern Lancaster County, production of timber for the pulp industry.

Chemical Debarking



A tree that has been girdled is here treated with chemicals which in a few weeks will cause the tree to completely shed its bark before being toppled and sent to paper mills for use as pulpwood. Gloves, a brush and extreme care in its use are urged.

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