



Miles Fry shows the growth contrast between the waist-high, one-year old hybrid poplar seedlings and the 10 to 15 foot, two-year old trees in the background. L. F. Photo

● Hybrid

(Continued from Page 1) that with good forestry management the hybrid poplars will produce at least 40 cords of wood per acre in 15 years (10 cords from thinning between the eighth and tenth years, and 30 cords at 15 years) Properly thinned stands not cut at 15 years would produce logs for veneer or lumber in 20-25 years, according to Scheiner's article, Fry put it just a little differently when he said that a farmer can harvest a timber crop from a hybrid poplar woodlot in about one-third the time it would take for some of the hardwoods.

What can this timber be used for? According to Fry it can be used for any general purpose where yellow poplar can be used — trim, rafters, etc.; anything but sub-flooring construction.

To see how the wood would take a finish, Fry had a six-inch tree cut and run through a planing mill. At the base it gave a finished four-by-four log. He had standard finishes applied to each surface: sealer and white paint; sealer alone; and sealer and stain. He quoted the man who did the job as saying that he had never before seen a wood in which the grain could be so completely covered with one coat of white paint. With the clear and the stained finishes the grain was very attractive. The hybrid poplar appears



This little hybrid poplar was planted last Spring as a 12 to 18 inch, rooted cutting. With less than one full year's growth it has tripled in height in spite of the course, shaley ground of an old iron mine barren near Warwick. L. F. Photo

to also have an important place in the future of conservation and reclamation of land. It is highly adaptable to a wide range of conditions. If properly planted, plain unrooted cuttings will take hold nearly 100% of the time even under severe conditions. The species will tolerate a phenomenal range of soil pH, from about 3.0 to 8.9.

Fry has experimental plots on several "spoil banks" in eastern Pennsylvania. Nothing else will grow on these spoil banks, not even weeds in most cases. On one site near the Bethlehem Steel Grace Mine, 20,000 unrooted cuttings were planted in Spring 1961. They were cultivated twice after planting, and the latest survey revealed a 50 per cent survival rate. This is excellent under these conditions.

In Schuylkill County, in the heart of the coal area, the local Vocational Agriculture class made plantings starting

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