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BRIEF INFORMATION ON INSECT DAMAGE TO CYPRESS LOGS AND LUMBER
IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC AND GULF STATES AND SUGGES-
TIONS RELATING TO ITS PREVENTION.Character and Extent of Damage.

The principal damage to cypress is due primarily to attack by tiny wood-boring insects known as pinhole borers or ambrosia beetles, which make holes in the wood not much larger than the head of a pin. They bore holes or burrows in the wood for the purpose of rearing their young. The beetles are attracted to the sapwood and heartwood of trees when deadened or recently felled and to logs and lumber only when in a green or moist condition, because moisture is necessary for the growth of a so-called ambrosia fungus on the walls of the pinhole burrows on which the beetles and their young live. Therefore, any agency, or combination of them, which retards drying, such as the deadening of trees during certain seasons of the year, leaving green logs in moist, shaded places in the woods, or placing freshly sawed lumber in close piles during the period of insect activity, will offer favorable conditions for insect attack. Under such conditions trees, logs and lumber may be severely damaged within a few days time and in a few weeks reduced in value nearly 50 per cent.

Remedy.

Damage to infested logs and lumber can be checked, where practical, by submerging in water or saturating with a liberal solution of liquid orthodichlorobenzene.

Prevention.

The most practical way of protecting green cypress logs and lumber from insect injury is to make such slight changes in the methods of management in the woods, in the storing of logs in the mill yard or lumber yard, as is necessary to produce unfavorable conditions for these insects. Such procedure is necessary since they are active from February 15 to November 1, causing the most serious damage during warm, damp days of the summer. Occasionally they will appear during mild days of an open winter.

Protection of deadened trees.

The most favorable time to deaden trees is from August 15 to September 5, as is the common practice in many localities. This period, however, may be extended through October and November. Trees deadened (girdled) during this period will be immune, or nearly so, from insect attack. Those prepared during August will be ready to float in October.

Protection of green logs.

When prepared for floating:

For immediate use during the summer, fell trees, leave tops on until the foliage dries; remove logs from the woods and utilize at once.

When not prepared for floating:

(1) Provide for as little delay as possible between the felling of the green timber and its utilization for lumber or submergence in water.

(2) Remove logs from the woods as soon as cut during the period of insect activity and transport to a place of safety.

Protection of green lumber.

Moist green lumber sawed during the summer months should be kiln-dried when possible; otherwise observe the following procedure:

(1) Pack cypress lumber until dry before piling.

(2) Cross-rack lumber during the spring and fall to aid rapid drying.

(3) Pile with flue in center to aid rapid seasoning. (Care must be taken that it does not check by drying too fast.)

(4) Cut heavy dimension stuff, as far as possible, during the fall and winter months.

(5) End-pile lumber during the winter, if necessary to hasten drying.

(6) Unless the trade requires it, avoid leaving bark on the edges of lumber sawed from green logs.

(7) Lumber yards located on flat, low, damp areas, where the water stands after heavy rains, should be drained by a system of trenches.

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