

PURPOSE: Direct seeding is a low cost alternative for establishing longleaf, loblolly, slash and shortleaf pine on sites that are inaccessible, of low productivity, or where a minimal investment is desired.

SEED: Use only tested, repellent-treated seed purchased from a reputable commercial seed company. Follow instructions for seed handling and storage or use an experienced vendor.



TIME: Direct seed longleaf pine during November and December. Sow loblolly, slash and shortleaf pine seed February - April.

SITE PREPARATION: Pine seed must come in direct contact with bare mineral soil. Site preparation by multiple fires or mechanical means insure this condition before direct seeding. Avoid seeding on sites that have deep, sandy soils that dry out quickly after rain and areas of severe frost heave.

SOWING RATE: Pine seed size is important when determining sowing rate. Recommended seeding rates reflect the goal of seeding 10,000 - 15,000 viable seed per acre. The actual seeding rate should take into account the germination test rate of the seed. Average seed per pound and seeding rates are:

- longleaf - 4700 seed/lb. sown at 2 to 3 lbs./ac
- loblolly - 18,000 seed/lb. sown at 1/2 to 1 lb./ac
- slash - 15,000 seed/lb. sown at 3/4 to 1 1/4 lb./ac
- shortleaf - 48,000 seed/lb. sown at 1/4 to 1/2 lb./ac

EQUIPMENT: Seed by hand using a cyclone-style seeder or by aerial application using an airplane or helicopter. Distribute seed as evenly as possible.

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