

## PINE DECLINE

Pine decline is a disease complex resulting from stress. It is becoming more common and is misdiagnosed as little leaf disease, or annosus root rot, mostly in loblolly pine plantations and short leaf pine stands. Slash pine is not susceptible. The affected trees are usually dead in two to three years.

The type of soil is not related to the disease, but loam and sandy clay loam soils are susceptible. Organic matter and topography are associated more with pine decline. Drought and storm damage are the prevalent factors that cause the decline. In these areas the smaller pine roots will have the *Leptographium* fungi due to bark beetles feeding on the weakened root.

Indicators above the ground are thinning crowns and yellowing of the needles. In most cases there are healthy pines next to the declining

trees.

At present there is no cure for this type of mortality. The best method is managing the pines based on the site. Pine species, soil type and planting hardwoods in some cases are the main recommendations. The combination of root trauma, due to thinning timber and prescribed burning when the timber stand is under stress, can lead to further damage.

In making a decision to cut the "pine decline" area a survey of the affected pines has to be done. If 30% of the stand is dying then the best recommendation is to clear cut the stand. When replanting that area, slash pine, Longleaf pine and hardwoods might do better. Remember, each species will do well on certain sites. Ask a professional forester in regards to which species to plant.



## TAX TIPS

Payments received under the Conservation Security Program (CSP) are eligible for Section 126 exclusion. CSP is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to promote the conservation and improvement of soil, water, air, energy, plant and animal life. The IRS has determined that all, or a portion of these cost-share payment under the CSP, is eligible for exclusion from gross income to the extent permitted in Code Section 126.



Timber Tips is published semi-annually to give our customers valuable updates on the timber market and land management. Look for our next issue to arrive in December.

## ALABAMA ADOPTS PURPLE PAINT TRESPASSING LAW



Senate bill 416 has been adopted to defend the definition of "trespassing".

Currently most signs say: "Posted: No Trespassing". An uninvited person on rural, unfenced property is legally not a "trespasser" unless signs are posted, or the owner communicates "no trespassing" to the individual.

The newly adopted "Purple Paint Trespassing Law" means painting vertical stripes upon trees or posts along the property line every 100 feet or less. These marks must be vertical lines, at least eight inches in length and wider than one inch. The mark must start at least three feet above the ground and no more than five feet. The marks

must be readily visible when approaching the property and no more than 100 feet apart or 1,000 feet apart on other land which is not forest land.

Six other states are already using the "Purple Paint Trespassing Law". Act #2016-402



## US IMPOSES TARIFF ON CANADIAN LUMBER

US Department of Commerce announced preliminary duties on Canadian softwood lumber. The rate is set at 19.88% except for five Canadian exporters. There are several problems with implementing the tariff, due to housing starts, exchange rate, current prices and the future forecast.

The courts have ruled that Canadian lumber is being subsidized by their government. Canadian timber comes from the Crown lands and is made available at lower than market rates. An import quota could be the answer.

