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U. S. FOREST EXPERIMENT STATION

N E W S N O T E S

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For the Use of Trade Papers
and Others Interested in Forestry, Lumbering, or Forest Products.

Contents of Issue, October 10, 1924.

Feeding Forest Seeds to Hungry Squirrels and Chipmunks

Flagstaff, Ariz.-- At the Southwestern Forest Experiment Station: tests of the appetite of the average Rocky Mountain mantled ground squirrel and the San Francisco mountain chipmunk show an astonishing capacity for pine seeds. The ground squirrel will eat 340 pine seeds in one day and night, while the chipmunk accounts for 237.

Dr. Walter P. Taylor of the Biological Survey, who is conducting the tests, finds that a group of four seed trees in an acre of cut-over western yellow pine land would produce about 92,000 seeds in a good year. This would be just enough seed to carry one family of squirrels and three families of chipmunks about two weeks. What the rodents are going to do for the remaining 50 weeks, or what they do in a poor seed year, does not appear. But in a good year

at least, they very seriously interfere with the natural reforestation of western yellow pine.

The Southwestern Forest Experiment Station has been advocating the leaving of four mature trees in every acre cut over, to provide seeds for a second growth of pine. It would appear questionable whether four seed trees to the acre are sufficient to do more than win the grateful appreciation of resident squirrels and chipmunks, were it not for the young pines that actually do come in on these cut-over areas in defiance of biological statistics.

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Cooperative Bugs
and a Giant Fir

Portland, Oreg.-- One of the expensive processes in paper making is barking the logs, for no bark should get into the wood pulp. Director Thornton T. Munger of the Pacific Northwest Forest Experiment Station has recently been informed by Dr. F. C. Craighead, of the Bureau of Entomology of the Department of Agriculture, that bugs can sometimes be persuaded to perform this work for the paper companies for nothing.

One Southern lumber company gets the bugs to work, Mr. Munger was told, by girdling close to the ground the pine to be cut for pulpwood. If this is done in the late summer, a multitude of bark borers and other beetles are attracted to the trees and in a few weeks have the bark so completely loosened that it can easily be slipped off when the trees are felled. At this point, however, the truce between beetle and forester is at an end, for logging during the winter following destroys the insects harbored in the bark, and this one abundant feast is their last.