Tree crops for marginal farmland: Loblolly Pine

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Abstract
This guide describes the most effective practices used to grow loblolly pine trees in the southern United States and the cost of those practices. It includes a financial analysis which uses typical costs and expected returns to evaluate a representative investment.

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Loblolly pine plantation that is extensively managed (top) compared to a plantation that is intensively managed (bottom). Ecosystem components (soils, competing vegetation, litter, etc.) or lost (gaseous losses, leaching). The low rate of N uptake by the crop trees decreases the returns from investments. Total uptake in the crop trees including foliage, branches and bolewood ranged from a low of 20% in the PCU treatment after the late winter application to a high of 40% in the NBPT treatment after winter application. This guide describes the most effective practices used to grow loblolly pine trees in the southern United States and the cost of those practices. It includes a financial analysis which uses typical costs and expected returns to evaluate a representative investment.

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Loblolly pine is grown for products such as sawlogs and pulpwood and is the primary species used by the paper industry. More than half of the U.S. wood pulp supplies come from southern pines, of which a large portion is loblolly. The U.S. Forest Service in 1987 projected a 40 percent increase in pine pulpwood needs by the year 2030.