

the seedling count had increased. There could be no more striking demonstration of a scientific proposition than this that razor-back hogs utterly destroy longleaf pine seedlings. At the end of five years the fenced half-acre was crowded with waving dark green plumes of young longleaf pines, truly as beautiful as any of Kubla Khan's enchanted gardens, whereas outside the fence not a seedling greeted the eye.

A further and even more interesting experiment was tried on the half-acre of ground within the fence. Here, with the hog eliminated, it was proposed to demonstrate the effect of fire alone on longleaf pine seedlings. Hundreds of thousands of acres of cut-over longleaf pine lands in Louisiana and other Southern states have remained nearly bare of second growth since the cutting of the virgin timber many years ago. In some cases this barrenness was plainly the result of lack of seed, the original timber to the very last sapling having been cut down or burned up. On other great areas, however, this explanation could not hold, because scattered trees of seed-bearing size were to be found on nearly every acre, and oftentimes, as around Urania, there were as many as six or seven such trees to the average acre. A few people concluded that longleaf pine simply would not reproduce itself. The great majority of local residents, however, as well as the forestry authorities, knew that the failure of the longleaf pine to reproduce was not any lack of ability