

## HOLLY PLOTS

The results of the second series of plots, known as the Holly plots, are scarcely less striking than those obtained on the Roberts' plots just described. It has already been mentioned that an incredible number of longleaf pine seedlings will germinate on a given area, only to be reduced by natural causes to perhaps one fortieth of the <sup>original</sup> number in the course of the first year. <sub>less</sub> What is true of longleaf pine is more or/true of all of the other Southern pines, and in fact of trees in general. Moreover the reduction in the number of seedling trees continues into the second year and right on through every succeeding year. The rate of reduction, however, decreases progressively, so that in the case of shortleaf pine for example, the number of young pines which exist at ten years of age is on the average about one half of the number of one year seedlings; the number at fifteen years of age is about 60% of the number at ten years; the number at twenty years is about 65% of that at fifteen, and so on, until at eighty years there is only a 10% loss in the number of trees over a ten year period.

The proposition to be demonstrated on the Holly plots was whether or not man could improve on the natural processes of nature, at least to the extent of making useful some of the trees which nature unaided would have permitted to die and rot without serving any valuable purpose