

Scalping for Control of White-fringed Beetle

SFCOWFBW092507

IMPORTANCE: This weevil historically has been a serious problem in cotton, peanuts, okra, velvetbeans, soybeans and sweet potatoes. Larvae and adults have been observed feeding on more than 380 species of plants. The larvae feed on the roots, whereas, adults feed on plant parts above the ground.

Larvae of this insect have been found feeding on roots of newly planted seedlings. Mortality occurs but appears to be insignificant at this time. This weevil has the potential of becoming a major pest on seedlings throughout the South.



CONTROL: If done properly, scalping will leave a root-free zone, free of white-fringed beetle larva that will allow successful establishment of pine and hardwood seedlings. Subsoiling or harrowing fields before planting trees may also offer some control by exposing the larvae to birds and other predators.

Scalp with an agricultural scalper immediately before planting, either with a separate operation or just ahead of the tree planter. Scalping rows should be spaced at intervals equal to the distance between tree planting rows as designated in the “Specifications for Tree Planting” found within this plan. Depth of scalping should be no deeper than necessary to remove or “peel back” the root zone of the vegetation on the site; rarely more than 3-4 inches.

PRECAUTIONS: All forestry practices are to be performed in such a manner as to maintain soil productivity, limit soil erosion, and protect water quality. Scalping rows must follow the contour of the site. Failure to follow the contour will result in disapproval of the entire practice. All practices performed should follow Alabama’s Best Management Practice guidelines and have no adverse effect on threatened or endangered species or habitat.

Photo Credit: Edward L. Barnard, Fla. Division of Forestry, www.forestryimages.org



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