PROGRESS REPORT I OCTOBER 1948

Service Life of Treated and Untreated Fence Posts

1947 Progress Report on the T. J. Starker Post Farm

(Project No. 29)

By

Robert D. Graham

William J. Baker

OREGON FOREST PRODUCTS LABORATORY

State Board of Forestry and School of Forestry,
Oregon State College Cooperating

Corvallis

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A Research Project of the Oregon Forest Products Laboratory
Corvallis, Oregon

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Tabular Data

Service Life of Treated and Untreated Fence Posts

1947 Progress Report on the T. J. Starker Post Farm*
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LARGELY through the efforts of Mr. T. J. Starker, Professor of Forestry, the School of Forestry at Oregon State College, in 1927, established and has since maintained a "post farm" to obtain data on the natural durability of native woods and the effectiveness of different preservative treatments for species used as fence post material. The first posts were set January 7, 1928, and since the inception of the program, 1,454 posts have been placed in the farm. One introduced and 24 native species in the untreated condition and 6 Oregon woods that were given various preservative treatments have been or are being tested.

For 20 years, despite many handicaps, Mr. Starker assumed responsibility for procurement of material, installation of fence posts, record keeping, periodic inspections, maintenance of site, and the preparation of progress reports that have been issued annually since the first inspection in 1931. It is fitting, therefore, that henceforth the post farm shall be designated as the *T. J. Starker Post Farm,* in recognition of the foresight and unceasing efforts of its founder. Appreciation is expressed to the many cooperators, listed elsewhere, for donations of materials and services, and to graduate students in forestry who, without compensation, have assisted in various phases of the project.

The T. J. Starker Post Farm

The T. J. Starker Post Farm is located on School of Forestry land in the Peavy Arboretum about seven miles north of Corvallis, Oregon, on the west side of Highway 99W. The test area, located on an excellently drained south slope, uniformly consists of Olympic silty clay loam soil. The slightly acid top 8 inches of the soil has a pH of 5.4, an organic matter content of 4.71 per cent, a humus of one-half inch or less in thickness, and a nitrogen content of 0.1415 per cent.

Climatic conditions

The average annual rainfall in the Corvallis area since 1927 has been 35.15 inches; occasionally summer intervals have approached

* Commencing with this issue, progress reports on the T. J. Starker Post Farm will be made by the Oregon Forest Products Laboratory, superseding Bulletin Series, Nos. 9 to 9-G, *Preservative Treatment of Fence Posts,* published by the Engineering Experiment Station, Oregon State College.

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drought conditions. A mean relative humidity of 64.4 per cent and an average temperature of 54.2° F. have prevailed. The temperature seldom falls below freezing, then for short periods only, and it sometimes exceeds 85° F. Cool afternoon breezes from the Pacific Ocean usually arise daily in summer months.

Test specimens

Test posts are usually installed in groups of 25; each group constitutes a test series. Posts in each series are placed 2 feet apart in a row running in a northerly direction up the test plot slope. Test series are spaced 3 feet apart, and all posts are set into the ground to a depth of 2 feet.

Installed test posts, varying from 4 to 7 feet in length, have ranged from 3 to 70 square inches in ground-line cross-sectional area. Future test posts will be standardized at a length of 5 feet, and cross-sectional areas of individual posts will be limited to 16 ± 8 square inches at a distance of 2 feet from the butt ends. The average cross-sectional area, 2 feet from the butt ends of the posts in each new series, must fall within the limits of 16 ± 2 square inches.

Post inspections

The former practice of making annual inspections, usually in the month of October, and the application to each post of the arbitrarily selected, 50-pound, horizontal pull at a height of two feet above the ground will be continued. Future inspections will include a deterioration rating for the top and visible ground-line zone of each post, and an examination will be made of each post that does not withstand the 50-pound pull in order to determine the point and cause of failure.

Post farm records

Recorded data for each series of posts include the source and kind of material, sizes of individual posts, percentage of sapwood, processing prior to installation or preservative treatment, the preservative treatment given (if any), date of installation, dates of individual post failures, the condition of each post at each annual inspection period, and other pertinent facts.

Interpretation of Data

Posts and other wood products used in contact with the ground and exposed to the weather are subject to attack by insects and wood-destroying fungi. The most vulnerable section of a fence post extends from a short distance above to some distance below the

ground surface. This post zone usually has a more sustained favorable supply of the moisture and air necessary to the existence of these destructive agents. In areas of abundant rainfall or prolonged periods of high humidity, the tops of fence posts are subject to the same deterioration, but it normally proceeds at a slower rate. The ground-line section of a post is also important because preservatives are most subject to leaching action there and, on windy sites, sand erosion often cuts deeply into the wood of this zone. To evaluate intelligently the results of any test of fence post serviceability, many factors must be considered simultaneously.

Limitations of test data

The detailed tabular data presented at the end of this report cannot be applied indiscriminately to every locality and to all fence post service requirements. The data are primarily comparative and applicable to one area and one type of use; these data must be adjusted empirically to fit other situations.

Posts tested in the T. J. Starker Post Farm are not subject to the stapling, nailing, ground-line erosion, and physical forces that frequently reduce the service life of posts actually in use; but, on the other hand, these test posts are placed in climatic conditions that are conducive to virtually continuous insect attack and decay. The application of the arbitrary 50-pound horizontal pull to determine post failure is admittedly not comparable to the physical forces that may be suffered by fence posts in actual service.

Influence of climatic conditions

Climate determines to a great extent the proportion of time that suitable conditions for decay exist in a given region. Optimum temperatures for the growth of decay-producing fungi range from 60° to 80° F., but some fungi can develop at a temperature as low as 35° F. or as high as 120° F. If all parts of a wood post have a moisture content of 20 per cent or less (oven-dry basis) there is virtually no possibility of fungus growth. During long periods of extremely dry weather and in periods when the temperature approaches freezing, the rate of decay in posts is retarded. The rate of post decay is doubtless much slower in regions where long periods of unfavorable moisture or temperature conditions prevail. In western Oregon, for example, where moisture and temperature conditions are favorable for long periods, untreated tops of posts that have been given adequate butt treatment with a good preservative often decay long before the ground-line sections are seriously weakened.

Consideration of post characteristics

Post service records in this report mean little if the characteristics of the wood are not taken into consideration. The size, amount of sapwood, and extractive constituents in the wood greatly influence the serviceability of untreated posts. Larger posts may give longer service, not only because of greater gross volume of wood, but also because of the higher proportion of heartwood that they usually contain. The sapwood of no native species is naturally insect and decay resistant. Extractive constituents in the heartwoods of a few species promote resistance to insect and fungus attack; with some exceptions, these extractives give heartwood a darker color than that of sapwood.

Equal importance of preservatives and methods of preservation

The service life of treated wood is affected by the nature of the preservative used, the portion of the product treated, the amount of preservative retained by the wood, the method of treatment, and the uniformity of treatment. Most preservatives are effective fungicides and insecticides, but extension of the service life of wood requires the continued presence of the preservative in a concentration that is toxic to the organisms responsible for deterioration. It is important that the preservative be present in the areas subject to attack, principally the ground line zone and, in some instances, also the top of the post.

The method of treatment and the preservative used are equally important, for poor treatment produces poor results. For this reason, a preservative cannot be condemned until it can be shown that the treatment was unsatisfactory despite application of the preservative by a proper treating method. Although a preservative may fail under one set of climatic conditions, it may prove extremely successful under different conditions. A preservative that is very soluble in water, for example, may leach from wood in a region of abundant rainfall, whereas in a dry climate it may be permanent. Successful treatment provides uniform penetration into the treated area and the retention of a sufficient quantity of preservative within the wood structure adequately to protect the wood under the conditions in which it is to be used. High total retention of preservative is not necessarily an indication of successful treatment; in some species the end penetration of the preservative may be very rapid, whereas side penetration may be very slow. This may result in complete protection of the end of the post, with virtually no protection of the ground-line zone.

Preliminary Evaluation of Tests

Determination of the service life of a series in which most or all posts have failed is relatively simple; for many of the naturally decay-resistant untreated series and for treated series in which few posts have failed, estimation of average service life cannot be made with accuracy. The estimated service life, when given for any series in this report, is based on the number of posts that have failed and on the service age and condition of the remaining posts. For a few untreated species, the natural decay resistance as determined in other service tests has been taken into consideration in making estimates of service life.

Untreated fence posts

The characteristics, service records, and removal records of untreated fence posts are shown in Tables 1, 2, and 7. Based on the actual and estimated service life for each untreated series of posts, the various species tested or being tested are classified into three broad groups. Numerals in parentheses indicate series numbers for convenience in referring to tabular data.

1. Average service life of at least 20 years

a. Cedar, Alaska yellow (46)
b. Cedar, Port Orford white (21)
c. Cedar, western red (10, 11)
d. Juniper, Sierra (30)
e. Locust, black (40)
f. Osage-orange (32)
g. Redwood (58)
h. Yew, Pacific (13)

2. Average service life of 10 to 15 years

a. Cedar, California incense (29)
b. Oak, Oregon white (19)

3. Average service life of less than 10 years

a. Alder, red (16)
b. Ash, Oregon (28)
c. Cascara (20, 47)
d. Cottonwood, black (14)
e. Douglas-fir (1, 55, 57)
f. Fir, grand (15)
g. Hemlock, western (38)
h. Larch, western (37)

i. Madrone, Pacific (26)
j. Maple, bigleaf (17)
k. Pine, lodgepole (48, 49)
l. Pine, ponderosa (36)
m. Pine, sugar (35)
n. Pine, western white (34)
o. Spruce, Sitka (31)

Initial failures of untreated posts of species showing an average service life of less than 10 years usually occurred at the end of the first 2 or 3 years of service. If such posts must be used, one should expect to replace a few posts after this relatively short time interval, although the average service life of the entire lot may be several times greater than this.

Treated fence posts: nonpressure processes

The characteristics, service records, and removal records for fence posts treated by nonpressure preservation processes are given in Tables 3, 4, and 8. An attempt has been made to evaluate each treatment and, where a treatment has failed to produce a longer average service life than that of untreated material of the same species, the suspected cause of such failure is indicated. Since the T. J. Starker Post Farm has existed only 20 years, insufficient time has elapsed to give even reasonably good evaluations for many series of posts that have been given preservative treatments. Nonpressure preservative treatments have been segregated into two groups on the basis of performance. The names and series numbers of the species receiving these treatments are indicated in parentheses.

1. **Treatments that have not increased the average service life of posts.**

   a. BRUSH APPLICATION OF ASPHALT EMULSION (Douglas-fir, 39). Brush application of the most efficient preservative can hardly be considered an effective treatment for fence posts. The preservative cannot penetrate the wood sufficiently, and posts retain very little of the preservative.

   b. CHARRING (Douglas-fir, 22). Charring is not a preservative treatment and, if it accomplishes anything, it tends to shorten the average service life of posts by producing seasoning checks that give spores of decay-producing fungi access to interior parts of the post and by reducing the volume of wood in the critical zone.

c. COLD SOAKING IN 5 PER CENT SOLUTION OF ZINC CHLORIDE (Douglas-fir, 12). These posts were not appreciably benefited by this treatment for two possible reasons: (a) inadequate treatment of the ground line section and (b) leaching of the water-soluble preservative.

d. HOT- AND COLD-BATH CARBOLINEUM "B" (Port Orford white cedar, 9). This treatment seems to have had little effect in increasing the average service life of this species; the service record of untreated Port Orford white cedar is very similar to that of the treated material.

2. **Treatments that have increased the average service life of posts.**

a. A. C. M. Co. treater dust and paste (Douglas-fir, 5, 6, 24, 25).
b. Hot- and cold-bath using Carbolineum "B" (Douglas-fir, 8).
c. Hot- and cold-bath using creosote (black cottonwood, 27).
d. Hot- and cold-bath using 50 per cent creosote and 50 per cent crankcase oil (Douglas-fir, 18).
e. Hot- and cold-bath using Gasco creosote oil (Douglas-fir, 54).
f. Salt treatment (Douglas-fir, 2, 3, 4 and lodgepole pine, 50).
g. Soaking in Permatol "A" (ponderosa pine, 56).
h. Tire-tube method using Chemonite (Douglas-fir, 59).

Reference to the service records (Table 4) of posts in the latter of the two foregoing groups will reveal that many of these nonpressure treatments have been highly effective in protecting the ground-line zone. Serious deterioration in the tops of such posts indicates that some form of top treatment also should be given.

Treated fence posts: pressure processes

The characteristics, service records, and removal records of fence posts treated by pressure processes are shown in Tables 5, 6, and 8. With the exception of one series, there have been no failures in posts treated by pressure processes. The service records of many pressure treated series are comparatively short, but there is every reason to expect long service life from posts pressure treated with the

preservatives listed below. The names and series numbers of species treated with these preservatives are indicated in parentheses.

1. Chemonite (Douglas-fir, 45, and western hemlock, 44).
2. Coal-tar creosote (Douglas-fir, 53).
3. Coal-tar creosote and petroleum mixture (Douglas-fir, 51).
4. Creosote (Douglas-fir, 23).
5. Creosote, 70 per cent and fuel oil, 30 per cent (Douglas-fir, 7).
6. Gasco creosote oil (Douglas-fir, 52).
7. Wolman (Tanalith) salts (Douglas-fir, 42, and western hemlock, 41).
8. Zinc-meta-arsenite (Douglas-fir, 33).

Although the service life of Douglas-fir (Series 43) has been increased by chromated zinc chloride treatment, four post failures have occurred in the series, idicating that this preservative treatment has been less effective than those in the foregoing list.

Methods of Applying Preservatives to Test Posts

BRUSH TREATMENT: Preservatives and preservative solutions are applied to the wood surface with a brush. Its use for the treatment of fence posts cannot be recommended.

CHARRING: Although sometimes called a preservative treatment, charring the surface of wood cannot be justly designated a preservative treatment.

HOT- AND COLD-BATH: In this treatment, often called the open tank method, the posts are first soaked in a hot preservative solution for a number of hours; then the posts are either allowed to cool in the preservative or they are transferred into a cool solution. Posts to be treated by this method should be peeled and thoroughly seasoned. A fraction of or the entire length of the post may be treated by this method.

PRESSURE TREATMENTS: Prior to treatment, posts are air seasoned, artificially seasoned in the preservative by boiling under vacuum, or conditioned by steaming. Hot preservative is injected into the wood under pressure in a closed container, and a final vacuum is usually applied to remove excess preservative and dry the surface of the wood. The full length of the post receives treatment.

SALT TREATMENT: A $\frac{3}{4}$-inch hole slanting towards the butt is drilled to a depth of about two inches just above the ground line of an unpeeled freshly-cut post. One tablespoonful of a dry mixture of equal proportions by weight of salt (sodium chloride) and cor-

rosive sublimate (mercuric chloride) or one tablespoonful of a dry mixture of equal proportions by weight of salt, corrosive sublimate, and arsenous oxide is placed in the hole. A snugly fitting wood plug is then driven into the hole. One hole for a 6-inch post, two holes for an 8-inch post, and three holes for a 10-inch post have been suggested as being adequate. **Corrosive sublimate and arsenous oxide are very poisonous chemicals that must be handled with extreme care.**

SOAKING TREATMENT: Posts are placed in the preservative solution to the desired depth and permitted to soak for a number of hours or days. The posts should be peeled and thoroughly seasoned. For many species, that portion of the post 6 inches above and 12 inches below the ground line should be incised to a depth of ½ inch. This treatment has proved to be very successful for some species and much less effective for others.

TIRE-TUBE METHOD: One end of a portion of an automobile tire inner tube is slipped over the butt end of an unpeeled freshly-cut post that is laid with the butt end higher than the top end on an inclined rack. The open end of the tire tube is elevated, and the tube is filled with preservative. The preservative, after a period of time, diffuses through the sapwood and finally drips out of the lower end of the post.

Preservative Materials Used for Test Posts

ASPHALT EMULSION: An emulsion or suspension of finely dispersed particles of asphalt in water. Asphalt is a black to dark brown solid or semisolid material composed predominately of bitumens.

CARBOLINEUM "B": The exact composition of Carbolineum "B" is not known. Carbolineums, or anthracene oils, are coal-tar distillates of higher specific gravity and higher boiling range than ordinary coal-tar creosote.

CHEMONITE: Chemonite solution consists of copper, arsenic, and ammonium acetate dissolved in ammoniacal solution. A retention of 0.3 pound of dry preservative salt per cubic foot of wood is specified for pressure treatments.

CHROMATED ZINC CHLORIDE: The preservative contains about 82 per cent zinc chloride and 18 per cent sodium bichromate; it is injected in water solution. A retention of about 0.75 pounds of dry chemicals per cubic foot of wood is specified for pressure treatments.

CREOSOTE, CREOSOTE OIL, OR COAL-TAR CREOSOTE: A distillate of coal tar produced by high temperature carbonization of bituminous coal. It consists principally of liquid and solid aromatic hydrocarbons, contains appreciable quantities of tar acids and tar bases, and has a continuous boiling point range that begins at about 200° C. and extends to a temperature at least 125° C. higher.

CREOSOTE MIXTURES: Creosote may be mixed in varying proportions with petroleum, crankcase oil, or other diluents that act as carriers for the creosote.

GASCO CREOSOTE: A distillate of tar residue resulting from the cracking of asphaltic-base petroleum oils in which artificial fuel gas is the main product. It is manufactured by the Portland Gas and Coke Company, Portland, Oregon.

A. C. M. CO. TREATER DUST, GRANULAR TREATER DUST, AND TREATER PASTE: Preservatives formerly produced by the Anaconda Copper Mining Company as by-products of its copper smelting operation. Arsenic trioxide is the principal toxic constituent of the preservatives that were sold in dust, granular dust, and paste forms. The paste form was applied directly to the wood; the dust and granular forms were placed around the posts as earth was backfilled in the post-setting operation. The manufacture of these preservatives has been discontinued.

PERMATOL "A": A preservative containing pentachlorophenol as its toxic constituent. The name, Permatol, has been copyrighted by the Western Pine Association.

SALT AND CORROSIVE SUBLIMATE: A mixture of equal proportions by weight of the two water-soluble chemicals. Corrosive sublimate (mercuric chloride) is the toxic chemical, and the salt serves to hold moisture. **Corrosive sublimate is an extremely poisonous chemical.**

SALT, CORROSIVE SUBLIMATE, AND ARSENOUS OXIDE: A mixture of equal proportions by weight of the three chemicals. The arsenous oxide is an additional water-soluble toxic agent. The addition of this chemical apparently contributes little, if anything, to the effectiveness of the corrosive sublimate. **Corrosive sublimate and arsenous oxide are extremely poisonous chemicals.**

WOLMAN SALTS (TANALITH): A proprietary wood preservative normally containing sodium fluoride, dinitrophenol, sodium chromate, and sodium arsenate. It is injected in water solution.

ZINC CHLORIDE: A chemical applied to wood in a 2 to 5 per cent water solution.

ZINC-META-ARSENITE: A preservative prepared by dissolving zinc oxide and arsenic trioxide in water that has been acidified with acetic acid.

T. J. Starker Post Farm Cooperators

Anaconda Copper Mining Co., Wood Preserving Department, Butte, Montana
Bradley-Woodard Lumber Co., Bradwood, Oregon
Carbolineum Wood Preserving Co., Springfield, Oregon
Chemonite Wood Preserving Co., San Francisco, California
J. W. Copeland Yards, Corvallis, Oregon
Corvallis Lumber Co., Corvallis, Oregon
Crossett Western Co., Wauna, Oregon
Harold Dahl, Troutdale, Oregon
Dant & Russell, Portland, Oregon
Holmes-Eureka Lumber Co., Eureka, California
C. D. Johnson Lumber Corp., Toledo, Oregon
Kirchmann Hardwood Co., San Francisco, California
McGoldrick Lumber Co., Spokane, Washington
Pope & Talbot, Inc., St. Helens, Oregon
Portland Gas & Coke Co., Portland, Oregon
R. H. Rawson, Portland, Oregon
Southern Pacific Co., Eugene, Oregon
U. S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service
- Deschutes National Forest, Bend, Oregon
- Forest Products Laboratory, Madison, Wisconsin
- Pacific Northwest Forest and Range Experiment Station, Portland, Oregon
- Umpqua National Forest, Diamond Lake, Oregon
- Willamette National Forest, Eugene, Oregon

Washington Wood Preserving Co., Spokane, Washington
West Coast Wood Preserving Co., Seattle, Washington
West Oregon Lumber Co., Portland, Oregon
Western Pine Association, Portland, Oregon
Weyerhaeuser Timber Co., Klamath Falls, Oregon
Willamette Valley Lumber Co., Dallas, Oregon

Table 1. CHARACTERISTICS OF UNTREATED FENCE POSTS

Species	Series number	Number of posts in test	Post description	Ground-line circumference or perimeter			Remarks
				Minimum	Maximum	Average	
				Inches	*Inches*	*Inches*	
Alder, red	16	25	Split, 25 per cent sapwood	15.0	24.0	19.6	
Ash, Oregon	28	25	Split, 30 per cent sapwood	14.4	24.0	19.2	
Cascara	20	12	Round, peeled, 70 per cent sapwood	6.0	13.3	8.9	
Cascara	47	26	Round, unpeeled, 35 per cent sapwood	12.6	30.2	17.3	
Cedar, Alaska yellow	46	24	Split, mostly heartwood	13.0	22.5	17.7	From tree down 4 years
Cedar, California incense	29	25	Split, heartwood	15.6	26.4	20.4	
Cedar, Port Orford white	21	25	Split, heartwood	17.0	32.0	24.4	
Cedar, western red	10*	25	Split, heartwood	18.0	23.0	19.9	Selected for dark color
Cedar, western red	11*	25	Split, heartwood	17.0	21.0	19.1	Selected for light color
Cottonwood, black	14	25	Split, 20 per cent sapwood	17.0	28.0	22.4	
Douglas-fir	1	25	Round, unpeeled, 60 per cent sapwood	15.5	22.0	19.1	
Douglas-fir	55	25	Sawed, square, heartwood	16.0	16.0	16.0	
Douglas-fir	57	25	Sawed, square, heartwood	16.0	16.0	16.0	
Fir, grand	15	25	Split, 65 per cent sapwood	17.5	28.0	22.4	
Hemlock, western	38	25	Sawed, square, heartwood	16.0	16.0	16.0	
Juniper, Sierra	30	11	Round, peeled, 40 per cent sapwood	19.0	26.5	22.1	
		14	Split, 40 per cent sapwood	17.5	27.5	23.9	
Larch, western	37	25	Sawed, square, heartwood	16.0	16.0	16.0	
Locust, black	40	8	Round, 20 per cent sapwood	6.3	17.3	10.4	
		14	Split, 20 per cent sapwood	11.3	27.0	15.8	
Madrone, Pacific	26	25	Round and split, 40 per cent sapwood	16.5	27.5	21.2	
Maple, bigleaf	17	25	Split, 25 per cent sapwood	17.5	24.5	20.4	
Oak, Oregon white	19	25	Split, 20 per cent sapwood	15.0	23.5	18.5	
Osage-orange	32	11	Round, unpeeled, 10 per cent sapwood	15.8	26.0	20.1	
		15	Split, 10 per cent sapwood	12.6	20.6	17.5	
Pine, lodgepole	48	26	Round, peeled, 55 per cent sapwood	12.6	18.8	15.7	From dead trees
Pine, lodgepole	49	25	Round, peeled, 55 per cent sapwood	12.6	18.8	15.7	From live trees
Pine, ponderosa	36	25	Sawed, square, heartwood	16.0	16.0	16.0	
Pine, sugar	35	25	Sawed, square, heartwood	16.0	16.0	16.0	
Pine, western white	34	25	Sawed, square, heartwood	16.0	16.0	16.0	
Redwood	58	25	Sawed, square, heartwood	16.0	16.0	16.0	
Spruce, Sitka	31	26	Sawed, square, heartwood	16.0	16.0	16.0	
Yew, Pacific	13	23	Round, peeled, 10 per cent sapwood	9.7	23.2	15.7	

* From same group of posts.

Table 2. Service Records of Untreated Fence Posts

Species	Series number	Number of posts in test	Number of posts remaining	Service life of first-removed post*	Service life of last-removed post*	Average service life of removed posts	Service age of remaining posts	Average service life of all posts in series	Deterioration in tops of remaining posts
				Years	*Years*	*Years*	*Years*	*Years*	
Alder, red	16	25	0	2	7	5.2	.....	5.2	
Ash, Oregon	28	25	0	2	17	6.2	.....	6.2	
Cascara	20	12	0	2	11	5.4	.....	5.4	
Cascara	47	26	3	2	....	6.7	9.7	.....	Moderate to bad
Cedar, Alaska yellow	46	24	24	....	....	.....	9.9	.....	Moderate in 3 posts
Cedar, California incense	29	25	9	4	....	9.9	17.6	.....	Little or none
Cedar, Port Orford white	21	25	20	11	....	16.2	18.4	.....	Moderate in 5 posts
Cedar, western red	10	25	23	10	....	13.1	18.6	.....	Little or none
Cedar, western red	11	25	20	4	....	14.5	18.5	.....	Little or none
Cottonwood, black	14	25	0	2	9	4.8	.....	4.8	
Douglas-fir	1	25	0	4	11	7.0	.....	7.0	
Douglas-fir	55	25	3	3	....	5.7	8.0	.....	Little or none
Douglas-fir	57	25	0	3	6	4.0	.....	4.0	
Fir, grand	15	25	0	2	15	8.7	.....	8.7	
Hemlock, western	38	25	0	3	14	5.8	.....	5.8	
Juniper, Sierra	30	25	23	12	....	13.2	17.7	.....	Moderate to bad in 11 posts
Larch, western	37	25	3	4	....	6.0	14.1	.....	Little or none
Locust, black	40	22	22	....	....	.....	12.5	.....	Little or none
Madrone, Pacific	26	25	0	3	8	5.8	.....	5.8	
Maple, bigleaf	17	25	0	5	9	6.5	.....	6.5	
Oak, Oregon white	19	25	13	8	....	10.3	18.4	.....	Moderate to bad in 8 posts
Osage-orange	32	26	26	....	....	.....	14.5	.....	Little or none
Pine, lodgepole	48	26	1	3	....	4.9	8.9	.....	Little or none
Pine, lodgepole	49	25	0	3	6	4.0	.....	4.0	
Pine, ponderosa	36	25	0	3	12	6.4	.....	6.4	
Pine, sugar	35	25	0	3	14	7.3	.....	7.3	
Pine, western white	34	25	0	3	10	5.8	.....	5.8	
Redwood	58	25	25	....	....	.....	7.8	.....	Little or none
Spruce, Sitka	31	26	0	3	9	5.7	.....	5.7	
Yew, Pacific	13	23	18	8	....	12.2	18.6	.....	Moderate in 1 post

* Rounded off to nearest full year.

Table 3. Characteristics of Treated Fence Posts

Nonpressure processes

Species	Series number	Number of posts in test	Post description	Sapwood	Ground-line circumference or perimeter			Type of preservative treatment
					Minimum	Maximum	Average	
				Per cent	*Inches*	*Inches*	*Inches*	
Cedar, Port Orford white	9	10	Round tops, peeled	25	18.0	21.5	19.5	Hot- and cold-bath, butt, Carbolineum "B"
Cottonwood, black	27	24	Split, peeled	20	16.5	24.5	21.6	Hot- and cold-bath, butt, creosote
Douglas-fir	39	25	Round, peeled	60	15.5	22.0	19.1	Brush, butt 30 inches, asphalt emulsion (Flintkote)
Douglas-fir	22	25	Round, peeled	60	12.5	19.3	14.7	Charred ¼ inch deep, butt 30 inches
Douglas-fir	2	25	Round, unpeeled	60	14.0	22.7	18.3	Salt and mercuric chloride, 1 hole, butt
Douglas-fir	3	25	Round, unpeeled	60	15.0	26.0	19.9	Salt, mercuric chloride, and arsenous oxide, 2 holes, butt
Douglas-fir	4	24*	Round, unpeeled	60	15.0	22.0	17.5	Salt, mercuric chloride, and arsenous oxide, 3 holes, butt
Douglas-fir	5	25	Round, unpeeled	60	13.0	20.5	15.6	A. C. M. Co. treater dust, butt
Douglas-fir	6	25	Round, unpeeled	60	13.0	20.5	16.5	A. C. M. Co. granulated treater dust, butt
Douglas-fir	24	25	Round, peeled	60	12.0	18.5	14.4	A. C. M. Co. treater paste, 2 pounds per post, butt
Douglas-fir	25	25	Round, peeled	60	12.5	18.0	15.5	A. C. M. Co. treater paste, 4 pounds per post, butt
Douglas-fir	59	12	Round, unpeeled	60	13.6	21.4	17.4	Tire-tube, full-length diffusion, Chemonite, absorption 4 to 8 pints per post
Douglas-fir	12	25	Round, peeled	60	11.9	16.7	13.8	Soaking, cold, in 5 per cent zinc chloride solution for 8 days, butt
Douglas-fir	8	22	Round, peeled	60	10.0	21.2	16.6	Hot- and cold-bath, butt, Carbolineum "B"
Douglas-fir	18	24*	Round, peeled	60	12.0	18.0	15.8	Hot- and cold-bath, butt, 50 per cent creosote, 50 per cent crankcase oil, absorption 0.88 pounds per post
Douglas-fir	54	25	Sawed, square	0	16.0	16.0	16.0	Hot- and cold-bath, butt, Gasco creosote oil, absorption 0.57 pounds per post
Pine, lodgepole	50	25	Round, unpeeled	55	12.6	19.8	15.5	Salt, mercuric chloride, and arsenous oxide, 1 hole, butt
Pine, ponderosa	56	25	Sawed, square	0–35	16.0	16.0	16.0	Soaking, cold, 17 hours in Monsanto Permatol "A," average absorption 0.61 pounds per post

* One of the original 25 posts was removed by State Extension Forester for exhibit purposes.

Table 4. SERVICE RECORDS OF TREATED FENCE POSTS

Nonpressure processes

Species	Series number	Number of posts in test	Number of posts remaining	Service life of first-removed post*	Service life of last-removed post*	Average service life of removed posts	Service age of remaining posts	Average service life of all posts in series	Deterioration in tops of remaining posts
				Years	*Years*	*Years*	*Years*	*Years*	
Cedar, Port Orford white	9	10	6	12	....	16.3	19.5	.....	Little or none
Cottonwood, black	27	24	24	....	....	.....	17.7	.....	Moderate to bad in 24 posts
Douglas-fir	39	25	0	3	7	5.3	.....	5.3	
Douglas-fir	22	25	0	2	11	6.3	.....	6.3	
Douglas-fir	2	25	25	....	....	.....	19.7	.....	Moderate to bad in 20 posts
Douglas-fir	3	25	25	....	....	.....	19.7	.....	Moderate to bad in 20 posts
Douglas-fir	4	24†	24	....	....	.....	19.7	.....	Moderate to bad in 6 posts
Douglas-fir	5	25	25	....	....	.....	19.6	.....	Moderate to bad in 10 posts
Douglas-fir	6	25	16	5	....	15.4	19.6	.....	Moderate to bad in 8 posts
Douglas-fir	24	25	25	....	....	.....	17.7	.....	Moderate to bad in 2 posts
Douglas-fir	25	25	24	18	....	17.7	17.7	.....	Moderate in 3 posts
Douglas-fir	59	12	12	....	....	.....	5.3	.....	Little or none
Douglas-fir	12	25	0	2	16	7.0	.....	7.0	
Douglas-fir	8	22	0	8	16	12.2	.....	12.2	
Douglas-fir	18	24†	11	3	....	12.5	18.4	.....	Moderate to bad in 5 posts
Douglas-fir	54	25	25	....	....	.....	8.0	.....	Little or none
Pine, lodgepole	50	25	22	6	....	7.2	8.9	.....	Moderate in 3 posts
Pine, ponderosa	56	25	24	8	....	7.8	7.8	.....	Little or none

* Rounded off to nearest full year.

† One of the original 25 posts was removed by State Extension Forester for exhibit purposes.

Table 5. Characteristics of Treated Fence Posts
Pressure processes

Species	Series number	Number of posts in test	Post description	Sapwood	Ground-line circumference or perimeter			Type of preservative treatment
					Minimum	Maximum	Average	
				Per cent	*Inches*	*Inches*	*Inches*	
Douglas-fir	52	25	Sawed, square	0	16.0	16.0	16.0	Gasco creosote oil, posts incised, absorption 4.23 pounds per post
Douglas-fir	45	25	Sawed, square	0	16.0	16.0	16.0	Chemonite, absorption 7.0 to 22.5 pounds (average 12.8 pounds) per post
Douglas-fir	43	25	Round, peeled	60	12.0	16.7	14.2	Chromated zinc chloride, absorption of 0.78 pounds dry salt per post
Douglas-fir	7	25	Round, peeled	60	12.0	21.0	17.7	70 per cent creosote, 30 per cent fuel oil, absorption 1.5 to 16 pounds (average 7.2 pounds) per post, treated twice
Douglas-fir	51	25	Sawed, square	0	16.0	16.0	16.0	Coal-tar creosote and petroleum mixture, average absorption 3.8 pounds per post, posts incised
Douglas-fir	53	25	Sawed, square	0	16.0	16.0	16.0	Coal-tar creosote, posts incised, absorption 8.1 pounds per post
Douglas-fir	23	50	Round, peeled	60	11.6	16.7	14.5	Creosote, absorption unknown
Douglas-fir	42	25	Sawed, square	0	16.0	16.0	16.0	Wolman salts (Tanalith), dry salt absorption 0.302 pounds per cubic foot, kiln dried after treatment
Douglas-fir	33	25	Sawed, square	0	13.9	16.6	14.8	Zinc-meta-arsenite, absorption 0.1 pounds per post, treated twice
Hemlock, western	41	25	Sawed, square	0	16.0	16.0	16.0	Wolman salts (Tanalith), dry salt absorption 0.302 pounds per cubic foot, posts kiln dried after treatment
Hemlock, western	44	25	Sawed, square	0	16.0	16.0	16.0	Chemonite, absorption 8.5 to 27.5 pounds (average 16.6 pounds) per post

Table 6. Service Records of Treated Fence Posts
Pressure processes

Species	Series number	Number of posts in test	Number of posts remaining	Service life of first-removed post*	Service life of last-removed post*	Average service life of removed posts	Service age of remaining posts	Average service life of all posts in series	Deterioration in tops of remaining posts
				Years	*Years*	*Years*	*Years*	*Years*	
Douglas-fir	52	25	25	....	....	.....	8.0	.....	Little or none
Douglas-fir	45	25	25	....	....	.....	10.4	.....	Little or none
Douglas-fir	43	25	21	5	....	8.0	10.7	.....	Little or none
Douglas-fir	7	25	25	....	....	.....	18.6	.....	Little or none
Douglas-fir	51	25	25	....	....	.....	8.0	.....	Little or none
Douglas-fir	53	25	25	....	....	.....	8.0	.....	Little or none
Douglas-fir	23	50	50	....	....	.....	18.4	.....	Little or none
Douglas-fir	42	25	25	....	....	.....	10.8	.....	Little or none
Douglas-fir	33	25	25	....	....	.....	14.5	.....	Little or none
Hemlock, western	41	25	25	....	....	.....	10.8	.....	Little or none
Hemlock, western	44	25	25	....	....	.....	10.4	.....	Little or none

Table 7. Removal Records of Untreated Fence Posts

Species	Series number	Date set	Number of posts in test	Total number of posts removed	Number of posts removed on each inspection date															
					Month ..	4	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	11	10	10	12	10	10
					Day	22	5	14	4	17	7	20	20	11	12	15	18	28	17	20	11	25
					Year	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47
Alder, red	16	3- 5-29	25	25		1	6	3	7	8	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Ash, Oregon	28	3-19-30	25	25		....	1	1	8	4	2	5	3	....	....	....	1	....	....	....	....	....
Cascara	20	3- 5-29	12	12		1	3	1	4	1	1	....	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Cascara	47	1-29-38	26	23		....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	4	4	1	2	4	1	6
Cedar, Alaska yellow	46	11- 6-37	24	0		....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Cedar, California incense	29	3-19-30	25	16		....	....	....	1	5	....	1	....	2	....	....	2	2	....	3	....	....
Cedar, Port Orford white	21	5- 4-29	25	5		....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	....	....	....	....	2	....	2
Cedar, western red	10	3- 6-29	25	2		....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	....	....	....	....	1	....	....	....
Cedar, western red	11	4- 1-29	25	5		....	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	1	1	1
Cottonwood, black	14	3- 5-29	25	25		2	6	6	8	2	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Douglas-fir	1	1- 7-28	25	25		....	4	5	7	4	2	1	2	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Douglas-fir	55	10-11-39	25	22		....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	6	2	7	2	4
Douglas-fir	57	12- 6-39	25	25		....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	8	8	8	1	....	....
Fir, grand	15	3- 5-29	25	25		1	4	1	3	2	1	3	1	2	1	3	1	2	....	....	....	....
Hemlock, western	38	9-20-33	25	25		....	....	....	....	....	3	5	6	6	2	....	1	1	....	....	....	1
Juniper, Sierra	30	2-12-30	25	2		....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	1	....	....	....	....
Larch, western	37	9-20-33	25	22		....	....	....	....	....	....	5	9	1	2	2	2	1	....	....	....	....
Locust, black	40	4-13-35	22	0		....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Madrone, Pacific	26	2- 6-30	25	25		....	....	3	6	7	3	6	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Maple, bigleaf	17	3- 5-29	25	25		....	....	....	11	8	3	3	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Oak, Oregon white	19	5- 7-29	25	12		....	....	....	....	....	....	2	5	2	....	2	1	....	....	....	....	....
Osage-orange	32	4-15-33	26	0		....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Pine, lodgepole	48	11- 1-38	26	25		....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	4	7	6	5	1	1	1
Pine, lodgepole	49	11- 1-38	25	25		....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	7	11	6	1	....	....	....
Pine, ponderosa	36	9-20-33	25	25		....	....	....	....	....	1	3	7	7	2	1	1	....	1	2	....	....
Pine, sugar	35	9-20-33	25	25		....	....	....	....	....	2	2	8	3	2	....	2	....	1	2	2	1
Pine, western white	34	9-20-33	25	25		....	....	....	....	....	1	2	7	11	3	....	....	1	....	....	....	....
Redwood	58	12-20-39	25	0		....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Spruce, Sitka	31	4-15-33	26	26		....	....	....	....	....	4	10	2	1	4	5	....	....	....	....	....	....
Yew, Pacific	13	3- 5-29	23	5		....	....	....	....	....	....	1	1	2	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	....

Table 8. Removal Records of Treated Fence Posts

Species	Series number	Date set	Number of posts in test	Total number of posts removed	Number of posts removed on each inspection date															
					Month ..	4	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	11	10	10	12	10	10
					Day	22	5	14	4	17	7	20	20	11	12	15	18	28	17	20	11	25
					Year	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47
Cedar, Port Orford white	9	4–20–28	10	4		....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	....	....	....	2	....	....	1
Cottonwood, black	27	2– 6–30	24	0		....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Douglas-fir	39	9–20–33	25	25		....	....	....	....	....	2	6	4	12	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Douglas-fir	22	5– 4–29	25	25		1	3	5	3	4	1	3	4	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Douglas-fir	2	1– 7–28	25	0		....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Douglas-fir	3	1– 7–28	25	0		....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Douglas-fir	4	1– 7–28	24*	0		....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Douglas-fir	5	3– 6–28	25	0		....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Douglas-fir	6	3–20–28	25	9		....	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	....	4	....	1	....	2
Douglas-fir	24	2– 6–30	25	0		....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Douglas-fir	25	2– 6–30	25	1		....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
Douglas-fir	59	6– 3–42	12	0		....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Douglas-fir	12	3–14–29	25	25		1	1	5	4	4	2	5	1	....	1	....	....	....	....	1	....	....
Douglas-fir	8	3– 6–29	22	22		....	....	....	....	....	....	2	5	5	2	....	2	....	1	5	....	....
Douglas-fir	18	5– 7–29	24*	13		....	1	....	....	....	1	....	1	1	2	....	2	....	1	3	1	....
Douglas-fir	54	10–11–39	25	0		....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Douglas-fir	52	10–11–39	25	0		....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Douglas-fir	45	5– 1–37	25	0		....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Douglas-fir	43	2–13–37	25	4		....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	....	2	....	....	1
Douglas-fir	7	3– 6–29	25	0		....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Douglas-fir	51	10–11–39	25	0		....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Douglas-fir	53	10–11–39	25	0		....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Douglas-fir	23	5–31–29	50	0		....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Douglas-fir	42	12– 5–36	25	0		....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Douglas-fir	33	4–15–33	25	0		....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Hemlock, western	41	12– 5–36	25	0		....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Hemlock, western	44	5– 1–37	25	0		....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Pine, lodgepole	50	11– 1–38	25	3		....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	1	....	1
Pine, ponderosa	56	12– 6–39	25	1		....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1

* One of the original 25 posts was removed by State Extension Forester for exhibit purposes.