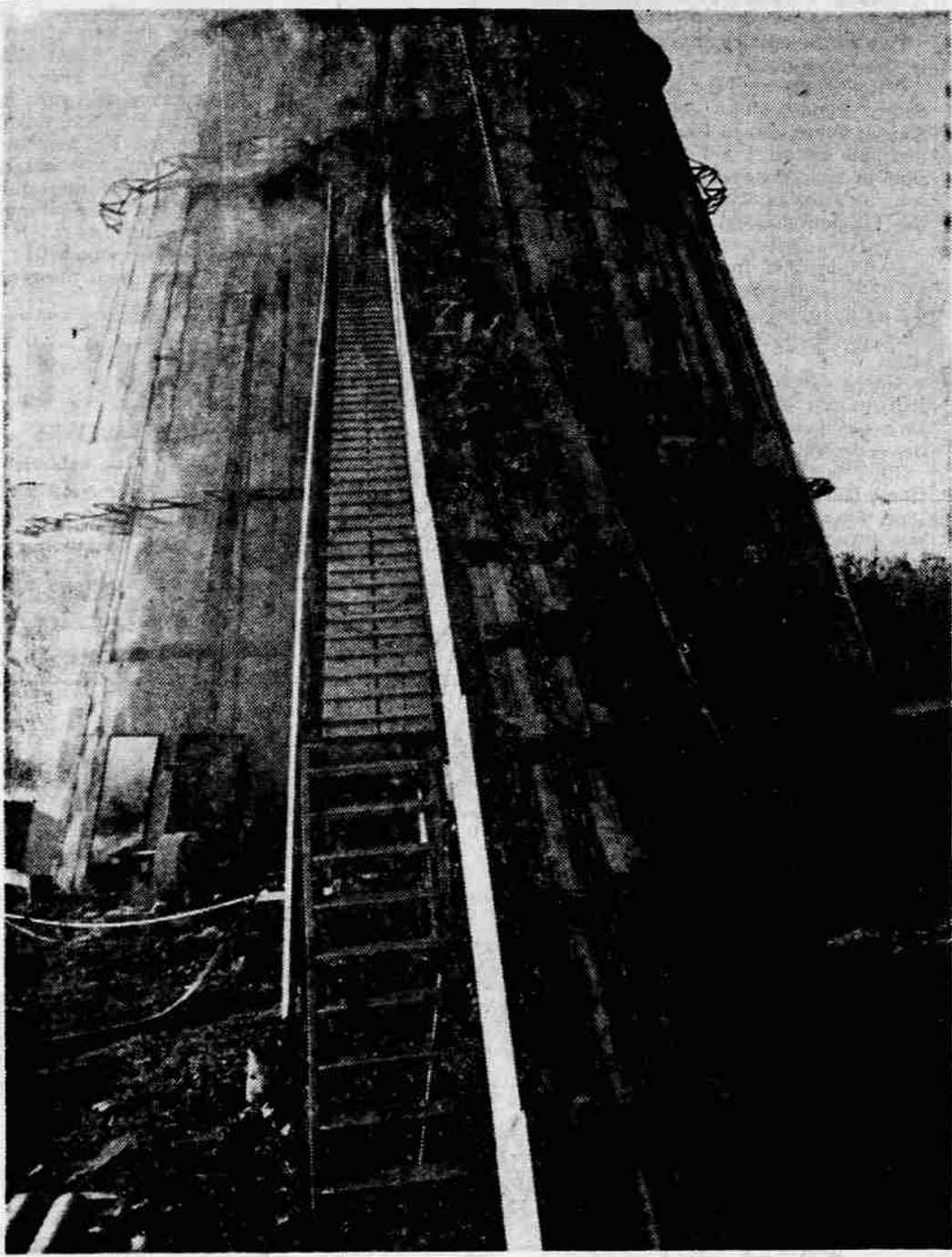


Bark By-Product Helps Stop Air Pollution

14 MAIL TRIBUNE, Medford, Or. A Sunday, March 27, 1960



ONE AIM—When this picture was taken, the conveyor chain into the top of one of Kogap Industries burners was carrying only a handful of scrap material. To keep the conveyor chain to the burners almost empty is the aim of the company through more complete use of all possible lumber waste materials such as the veneer scrap for chips

Kogap Producing, Selling Material Called Multi-Bark

By JOE COWLEY
Mail Tribune Staff Writer
Development of a bark by-product is one way to help eliminate air pollution and get more out of each log, officials more out of each log, officials figure.

To that end, the firm south of Medford is producing and selling a bark by-product called Multi-Bark. Multi because it has many uses. It can be used in place of gravel on walkways, parking lots, on playgrounds, around patios, for mulch on lawns, in gardens and orchards, according to Leonard Howe, Kogap by-products department head.

As with two or three other lumber companies in the Medford area, this is a new program for Kogap.

"We realize that with the increasing high costs of stumpage and processing that a lumber mill must get everything it can out of each log to stay in business," remarked S. V. (Duke) McQueen, Kogap vice president.

This year the company started experimenting with a hay-chopper converted to shredding the bark. Using bags supplied by an eastern bag company and offering it for free experimental use by nurserymen, farmers and orchardists Kogap sent up a trial balloon. For awhile the company kept a large pile of the shredded bark near the National Guard armory south of Medford. Soon demand was exceeding supply.

Early this month, the company put a new hammer mill in production which produces 25 units per day, each unit measuring 200 cubic feet, compared to the 5 units produced by the Rube Goldberg type of machine. The new hammer mill uses bark from two chain conveyor belts from the barking machine. The hay-chopper could use bark from only one belt.

"We are selling just about all the mill can produce," Howe said. "We are stockpiling some of it to get ahead of the demand and to allow it to decompose. One truck is hauling and one is making deliveries."

Being Used at Fair
Multi-Bark, resembling ground coffee, can be seen at the Crater Lions Sportsfair at the Jackson county fair grounds today. The ground under the tent is covered with the material.

When the Lions are through with it the ground bark will be used for landscaping around the Jackson county juvenile detention home, also located on the fairgrounds.

Although no real orchard test has been made of the material, Bear Creek orchards is working with Kogap to research its use. County Horticultural Agent Clifford B. Cordy is also experimenting with it. Harold White, superintendent of the Southern Oregon Branch Experiment station located on Hanley rd. near Jacksonville, has also taken some of it. The station's experimental program is all laid out this year, but White hopes to work it in with next

Helicopters May Help With Traffic Problems

Corvallis - (UPI) - Closed circuit television and helicopters will be used more in coming years to help with traffic problems, it was predicted at the Northwest Highway Engineering conference here.

Full Bloom Spray Applied to Pears

A full bloom spray for blight control on pears should be applied when 25 to 35 per cent of the blossoms are open, C. B. Cordy, county horticulture agent, said Friday. This should be repeated in five days if conditions war-

rant, he suggested.

In all sprayers use 1/2 pound of neutral copper per 100 gallons, he directed. For dusting, use 25 pounds of 3 per cent copper dust per acre.

Come as reasonably copper tolerant, but some russeting will result on other varieties. Spraying or dusting when the trees are wet will further increase this russeting, Cordy cautioned. Streptomycin may not be used after the fruit is visible, he warned.

Seven pounds of Ziram per acre or 1 1/2 pounds per 100 gallons is good for scab control, he suggested. It has also helped in blight control especially where applications have been repeated regularly. Some growers may prefer the better fruit finish even though blight control may not be as good, he explained.

Spreader have not been approved for use so should not be added to any spray, Cordy pointed out.

The 741-foot Kaieteur Falls on the Potaro River in British Guiana is believed to be the tallest single-drop waterfall in the world.

NEW INSTALLATION—This is the Multi Bark machine installed earlier this month. The machine, mounted high on a platform, grinds the bark from the two conveyors streaming from the barkers. The rotary screens can be seen which sift out the material according to the sizes wanted. A

chute sends the material to a truck waiting underneath. The company has painted its truck bright yellow with Kogap's name (Keep Oregon Green and Productive) on the sides with the words Multi Bark on the cabs of the trucks used for transporting the material.

Various schools in the area are using it on their playgrounds. Multi Bark is softer than gravel so prevents skinned knees and unlike gravel will not be tracked into the classrooms.

Recently constructed Westminster Presbyterian church is using it to absorb the mud while the grass grows and further landscaping is done around the building.

The company has also received two letters from Claremont, Calif., and one from New York requesting shipments of Multi Bark for residential use.

Use of bark as a soil conditioner is not a new idea. Various institutions and agencies have studied its use, according to a pamphlet published by the Forest Products Research center at Corvallis.

The University of New Hampshire in 1956 concluded that bark "is a good mulch for greenhouse growing of roses—better than cow manure." It stated that bark-sand mix is a good rooting media for grape cuttings and bark is a better mulch than hay or straw for blueberries.

It recommended addition of nitrogen to avoid nitrogen deficiency in growing plants. A researcher at the Oregon Agricultural Experiment station, Oregon State college, in 1956 discovered that Douglas fir bark decomposes at a slower rate than sawdust so requires less supplemental nitrogen. Bark lasts longer than sawdust as mulch, he pointed out in his research paper.

Ivory Pine Lumber company at Dinuba, Calif., is marketing all of its bark for a soil amendment. About 10 per cent of it is marketed without composting. The remaining 90 per cent has about 1/3 per cent nitrogen (dry basis) added in liquid solution and is left to stand about 6 months in piles 5 feet high, 20 feet wide and about 500 feet long.

Dwyer Lumber company, Portland, is marketing a granulated bark for horticultural use. Demand increased to where there was a 6 to 12 week waiting period for delivery. However, installation of a hammer mill increased production from 6 to 8 units to about 30 units each day. Supplemental Nitrogen

Researchers from the forest products research center learned that Portland area nurserymen preferred non-composed bark which could be bought at a lower price and wanted to add their own plant nutrients. However, most authorities seem to agree some supplemental nitrogen should be added to avoid nitrogen deficiency.

The Corvallis study points out that bark is not a fertilizer but a soil amendment that can be used as a mulch to hold moisture and slow weed growth, or it can be mixed into the soil.

Most Portland nurserymen prefer granulated bark over saw dust since it requires less nitrogen addition, stays in the soil longer, is less conspicuous due to its dark color, and

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PART OF CHIPPER—Another by-product of the Kogap Lumber Industries is the chip material which comes from the chipper. Shown in the picture is the bin and cyclone atop it. The waste veneer moves on conveyor belts, drops into a slot and at right angles into the razor-sharp chipper disc. The disc throws the chip material up the pipe. Forced air blows it into the cyclone, and into the bin where air separates the useable material. A screw conveyor then feeds it onto an apron and onto a screen. It then drops down into the feeder and is blown 1,000 feet through a pipe by air pressure, from where a flexible pipe pours it into the waiting railroad cars.

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plant growth with bark is better, especially with azaleas, rhododendrons and camellias.

Bark is reported to be much cheaper than peat moss, according to current sales prices. Peat moss costs about 35 cents a cubic foot compared to .045 cents a cubic foot, the forest products research center learned.

Market Potential

It's estimated by the Portland Chamber of Commerce that ground bark would have a tremendous market potential about 1,500 to 1,700 units could be sold in the Portland area alone based on current sales of peat moss.

However, local lumber firms must consider a number of factors in marketing the product, cost of polyethylene-lined bags, retail handling, transportation and distribution, bagging labor, grinding and bagging equipment depreciation, cost of adding nitrogen, warehousing and storage and promotion.

Biggest problem is transportation, Pacific Northwest costs are higher than other forest producing areas, forestry experts have pointed out. It's not uncommon for freight cost

to equal or exceed the selling price by 30 per cent. Also, Pacific Northwest producers bear at least a 50 per cent greater state and local tax burden than a southern competitor, for instance.

Forest product imports from Sweden, Norway, Finland and Japan have a strong influence on the U. S. market.

Economists working with the lumber industry point out that each product must be managed as a business itself if it is to profit and grow and finally survive. Whether this bark by-product business can become a profitable one remains to be seen. The market potential is there if too many firms don't see it all at once.

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