CIRCULAR A314 JULY 1959

treat Seasoned Posts for longer life

By
John J. Zaylskie
Extension Forester

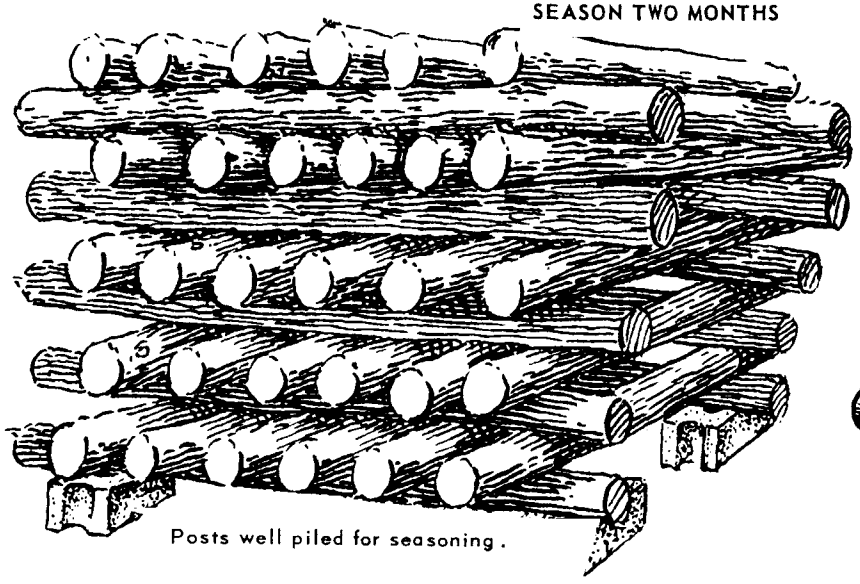
Untreated, such commonly used posts as Ash, Aspen, Elm and Willows will last only from 3 to 6 years. Bur Oak and Northern White Cedar might last 10 years. Treat them, and they're likely to last 30 years and even more.

NDAC Extension Service, Fargo
NORTH DAKOTA AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

There are 2 wood preservatives on the market commonly used for home treating peeled and seasoned posts. They are Penta (pentachlorophenal) and coal tar creosote.

Both of these wood preservatives can be applied either by cold soaking or by the hot and cold bath method.

REMOVE ALL BARK FROM POSTS
SEASON TWO MONTHS



Posts well piled for seasoning.

HOT AND COLD BATH METHOD

Equipment needed.

1. A steel drum or tank at least 4 feet deep. Set it so that a fire can be burned underneath.

2. Another steel or wood drum of the same size. Since this contains the cool chemical it can set on the ground or even be partially buried in the ground.

3. A thermometer. The candy or deep fat type is satisfactory.

4. Wood preservative. Use either coal tar creosote or Penta concentrate.

5. Used crankcase oil or fuel oil. Make sure no water is in the used crankcase oil. Water will cause it to foam and boil over.

6. Peeled and seasoned posts.

7. Fuel wood(or other fuel .)

Treating procedure

1. (a) If coal tar creosote is used, mix it with equal parts of used crankcase oil or fuel oil.

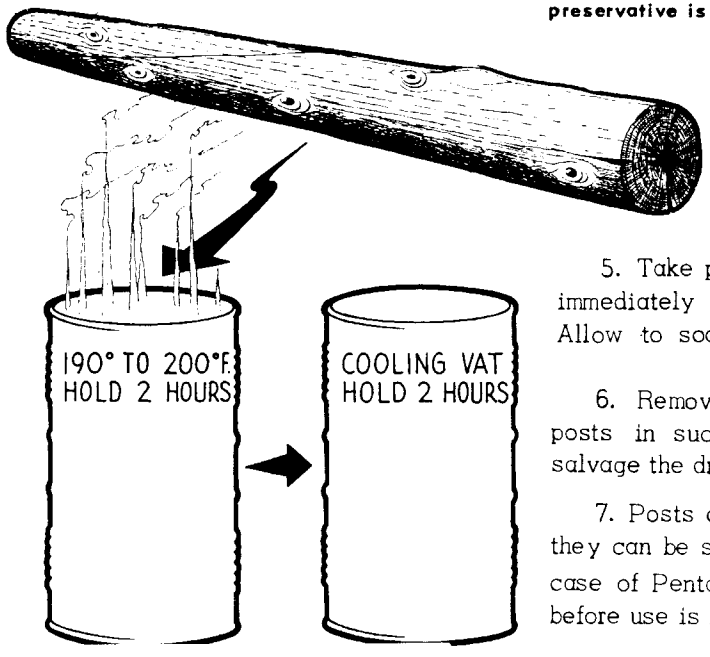
(b) If Penta concentrate is used, mix it according to manufacturer's directions. For 40 per cent Penta concentrate, mix at rate of 1 gallon Penta to 10 gallons of used crankcase or fuel oil.

2. Add preservative mixture to both drums to a depth of 24 inches.

3. Heat the metal tank until the preservative mixture reaches a temperature of 190°to 200° degrees Fahrenheit.

4. Place posts, butt down, in the hot solution, and keep there for two hours.

CAUTION: Keep temperature at 190 to 200 degrees. Do not allow to boil over. The preservative is inflammable.



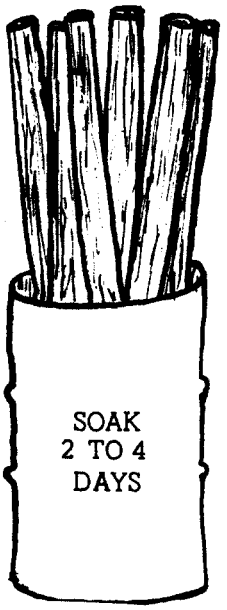
HOT AND COLD PROCESS

5. Take post out of hot solution and immediately place in cool solution. Allow to soak for at least 2 hours.

6. Remove and temporarily store the posts in such a manner that you can salvage the drainings.

7. Posts can be used immediately or they can be stored until needed. In the case of Penta, a week or two of curing before use is beneficial.

If only a few posts are needed at a time, the second or cool drum can be eliminated. After the posts have heated for 2 hours, draw the fire and let the posts soak until the solution has cooled.



COLD SOAKING PROCESS

COLD SOAK METHOD

Equipment needed

1. A metal or wooden drum or barrel, not less than 30 inches deep.

2. Coal tar creosote or Penta mixed as listed under "Hot and Cold Bath Method".

3. Peeled and seasoned posts.

Water gas tar or lignite coal tar creosote without dilution with crankcase or fuel oil can be used instead of the coal tar creosote or Penta.

Treating procedure

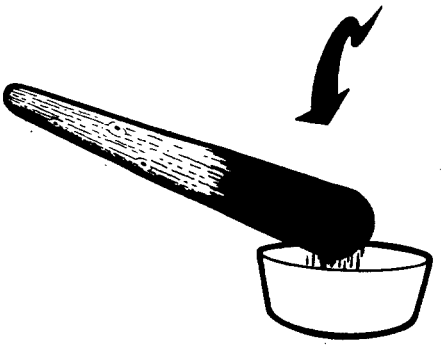
1. Fill the drum or barrel with posts, butt end down.

2. Add the mixed preservative mixture until the drum or barrel is full.

3. Let posts soak for 2 days. Check absorption of preservative by making a small cut into the side of the post. If 1/8 inch penetration is obtained, then take posts out. If less, soak for another day and check again. If necessary, soak for still another day, making 4 days in all.

4. Remove posts. Temporarily store them in such a way that you can salvage the drainings.

5. Posts can be used immediately or they can be stored 'til needed. Penta treated posts may give better results if they are cured for a week or two before using.



SALVAGE DRAININGS

North Dakota Agricultural College and the United States Department of Agriculture Cooperating. E. J. Haslerud, Director of Extension Service. Distributed in furtherance of the Acts of Congress of May 8 and June 30, 1914.