

POPLAR COUNCIL OF CANADA/CONSEIL DU PEUPLIER DU CANADA
2002 ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN

Prepared by Bill Schroeder

1. Overview

Status

- Interest in hybrid poplar is increasing.
- Several new poplar research projects initiated in 2002.

Hot issues

- Utilization of hardwoods on private and crown land
- Conversion of marginal agricultural land through afforestation

New developments

- Climate change and greenhouse gases
- Saskatchewan Forest Centre established August 2001.
- Significant NSERC and ADF funding for hybrid poplar farming research.

2. Policy and Legislation

Changes

- New mills required to obtain 20% of hardwood volume from leased or private land.
- Province of Saskatchewan endorsed an Agroforestry Strategy June 2001.
- Access to provincial crown lands for hardwood supply is under investigation.
- Province is investigating use of hybrid poplar on crown lands

3. Statistics

Plantations

Pilot plantations are being established by SERM, CFS, PFRA, Sask Ag & Food. In 2002 approximately 300 acres of hybrid poplar were planted in these projects. Including 2002 planting, there are approximately 400 acres of hybrid poplar plantation in Saskatchewan.

New inventory data

SERM is updating inventory for the forest fringe including crown and private land. Currently using data from the Southern Digital Land Classification until inventory is complete.

4. Technical Information

Saskatchewan Forest Centre

- Funded by Governments of Saskatchewan and Canada (CFS and Western Diversification)
- Public non-profit company, with 9 private and 4 public sector board members
- Three Focus areas
 - Value added forest industry
 - Agroforestry / Afforestation
 - Forest / Forest Fire Technology Transfer Services
- Forest Development Fund: Financial support for applied research in above focus areas
- Contact: Robin Woodward

Selection and breeding

AAFC-PFRA Shelterbelt Centre

- Collaborative PFRA/ALPAC hybrid poplar breeding project - 110 crosses attempted in 2002.
- Clone tests initiated in 2002 - 50 clones at 4 sites.
- New hybrid poplar clones - three new hybrids being increased for release.
- Improved drought and cold adaptation of hybrid poplar - screening clones and new lines for water use efficiency and cold hardiness
- Contact – Bill Schroeder

Genserve Labs – Saskatchewan Research Council

- Developing hybrid poplar DNA fingerprint database.
- Contact – Faouzi Bekkaoui

Cultivation

University of Saskatchewan NSERC Project

Hybrid poplar stock type trial (plug, BR, hardwood cutting)

- Contact – Ken van Rees
- Collaborators – PRT Prince Albert, AAFC-PFRA, Mistik Mgmt, TOLKO

AAFC-PFRA Shelterbelt Centre – (Agriculture Development Fund)

Hybrid Poplar Plantations for Farm Diversification in Saskatchewan - weed management, clone tests, clone response to fertilization with hog manure

- Contact: Bill Schroeder
- Collaborators: U of S, PRT Prince Albert, Mistik Mgmt, TOLKO, Quadra Group
- Funding: Sask Ag & Food, Agriculture Development Fund

Application of Liquid Swine Manure from an Intensive Livestock Operation to a Hybrid Poplar Plantation - manure application methods and frequency, poplar growth response

- Contact –John Kort
- Collaborators – Prairie Agriculture Machinery Institute, Ken Rosaasen (Landowner)
- Funding: Sask Ag & Food, Agriculture Development Fund

AAFC-PFRA Shelterbelt Centre (Forest Development Fund)

Detailed Site Analysis and Mapping of Agroforestry Potential in the Northern Agricultural Zone of Saskatchewan

- Contact – Bill Schroeder

Development of an Agroforestry based Integrated System of Wood Production and Soil Conservation / Riparian Management

- Contact – John Kort

AAFC-PFRA Shelterbelt Centre

- Pest Monitoring of hybrid poplar plantations
- Stooling bed management
- Rooting hardwood cuttings

- Herbicide registration
- Hybrid poplar water use efficiency
- Monitoring yield and performance of hybrid poplar plantations
- Contact – Bill Schroeder, John Kort & Salim Silim

Canadian Forest Service

Establishment of Afforestation Demonstration Areas in Saskatchewan (Forest Development Fund) - plantation demonstrations and development of management practices

- Contact – Derek Sidders

Harvesting and utilization

Forest Development Centre / Forintek

Evaluation of Saskatchewan Grown Hybrid Poplar for Veneer Products and OSB (completed) - Hybrid poplar can be substituted for aspen or spruce at any level for OSB, structural sheeting panels or appearance grade plywood

- Contact – Robin Woodward

Saskatchewan's Forest and Wood Products Industry – Sector Profile and Market Identification

- Contact – Rhonda Lindenbach-Gibson

Parkland Agroforestry Group

Agroforestry/Woodlot Management Pilot Project (Forest Development Fund) - stooling bed production (13 members)

- www.agr.gov.sk.ca/agroforestry/CaseStudy2002.asp
- Contact – Leroy Bader

D&A Halland, Love, Sask

Value-added Processing of Hybrid Poplar in Saskatchewan for Solid Wood Products (Forest Development Fund)

- Contact: Dave Halland

Saskatchewan Agriculture & Food

Agroforestry Research and Demonstration Project (Forest Development Fund) - includes hybrid poplar plantation demonstration

- Contact – Leroy Bader

Saskatchewan Environment and Resource Management

Established 94 acres of hybrid poplar demo plantations in spring 2002 - 20 co-operators, plantation size from 1 to 10 acres

- Contact: Martha O'Sullivan

5. Industry

Major stakeholders, groups

Weyerhaeuser, TOLKO, Millar Western, Mistik Management.

First Nations and Metis Groups are developing partnerships with industry to examine hardwood economic potential (including hybrid poplar) in their areas.

Changes in 2002

New TOLKO OSB mill under construction at Meadow Lake will process 1 million m³ board feet hardwood, 20% sourced from private lands (hybrid poplar plantations?).

6. Events

Workshops, seminars, meetings

- Identifying Opportunities to Enhance the Development of the Agroforestry Industry in Saskatchewan Workshop – CSALE, University of Saskatchewan, February 2002
- Agroforestry Seminar and Annual Meeting – Parkland Agroforestry Group, March 2002

7. Reports and Publications

- The ACRE report - Action Committee on the rural economy (Gov't of Sask)
- Saskatchewan's Forest and Wood Products Industry – Sector Profile and Market Identification (Forintek Canada Corp)
- Evaluation of Saskatchewan Grown Hybrid Poplar for Veneer Products and Oriented Strand Board (Forintek Canada Corp)
- Manufacture of LVL and Plywood from Short Rotation Hybrid Poplar (Forintek Canada Corp)
- 2001 AAFC-PFRA Technical Report – in Press (AAFC-PFRA Shelterbelt Centre)
- Temperate Agroforestry: Adaptive and Mitigative Roles in a Changing Physical and Socio-Economic Climate. Proceedings 7th Biennial Conference on Agroforestry in North America (AAFC-PFRA Shelterbelt Centre)
- Industry Development in Saskatchewan: Grant Boosts Studies into Poplar Productivity on Farmland – The Edge Magazine, June 2002 (Ken van Rees, U of S)

8. Key People

Who can be contacted for further information (in addition to the report preparer)

- AAFC-PFRA Shelterbelt Centre
John Kort – kortj@agr.gc.ca
Salim Silim – silims@agr.gc.ca
Bill Schroeder – schroederb@agr.gc.ca
- Saskatchewan Forest Centre
Robin Woodward
rwoodward@saskforestcentre.ca
- Canadian Forest Service
Al Jurgens – ajurgens@saskforestcentre.ca
Derek Sidders – dsidders@NRCan.gc.ca
- University of Saskatchewan
Ken van Rees – vanrees@skyway.usask.ca
Andre Hucq – hucq@duke.usask.ca
- Parkland Agroforestry Group
Bruce Lebarre – Naicam, Sk
- Saskatchewan Environment and Resource Management
Martha O-Sullivan – M'O Sullivan@serm.gov.sk.ca
- Saskatchewan Research Council
Mark Johnston – johnston@src.sk.ca
Faouzi Bekkaoui – bekkaoui@src.sk.ca

- Mistik Management
Roger Nerdoly – roger.nerdoly@mistik,sk.ca
- Saskatchewan Agriculture
Leroy Bader – lbader@agr.gov.sask.ca
Forintek Canada Corp
Rhonda Lindenbach-Gibson –
rhonda@van.forintek.ca
- AAFC Semi-Arid Research Station, Swift Current
Harold Steppuhn – steppuhn@agr.gc.ca
- Pacific Regeneration Technology
Grant Harrison – gharrison@prtgroup.com
- Farm Woodlot Association of Saskatchewan
Dave Cubbon – Meadow Lake