

**Hybrid Poplar Production Costs and Yield Measurement in Alexandria, MN:  
An Analysis of Real Economic Costs of Production and Real Growth on 2000 acres**

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Since 1993, actual production costs on nearly 2000 acres of hybrid poplar planted on 17 landowner's Conservation Reserve Program land have been recorded. These costs are enumerated on a landowner-by-landowner basis. Because of the nature of the costs incurred in this multi-agency funded R&D project, a generalization of costs will be presented so as not to compromise individual landowner's cost data. In addition, all of the acreage was planted using 5 commercially promising clones, on a variety of soil types. Maps have been constructed depicting the layout of these clones across soil types on each landowner's field. The field sizes range from 16 acres to nearly 350 acres each.

In addition, yield measurement plots were constructed in 1997 to measure dbh and height. These measurement plots are comprised of 30 trees each and have 10 replications on each landowner's field. These plot measurements include 1997 cumulative growth, and will continue to be collected annually through culmination.

At harvest, all project partners will have a thorough understanding of what it costs to produce nearly 2000 acres of hybrid poplar on Conservation Reserve Program land. Partners will also have a detailed understanding of the actual annual growth increment from 1997 through harvest. Finally, an analysis of the real economic costs of production, range of soil types, method of measurement, commercial clones produced, estimate of growth per site, and the final market price will assist future producers and consumers of hybrid poplar of the potential viability of hybrid poplar for different end-use markets.