

Stock Type Simplification: Canfor's Perspective



Dale Likes, RPF
Silviculture Forester, Prince George

- Conduct a thorough Post Harvest Assessment in order to:
 - Confirm ecology
 - Determine & document all Site Limiting Factors (frost, drought, saturation, soil temperature, aeration & stability),
 - Note Site & Soil Factors (aspect, slope gradient and position, soil type, rooting depth, seepage depth, humus),
 - From the above assessment, determine the need for site preparation,
 - Store “Post Harvest Information” in a Database for easy retrieval (don’t rely on your memory)



- Based on the Post Harvest Assessment & Site Ecology:
 - Choose a an appropriate treatment regime, whether it be easy, moderate, difficult or extreme,
 - Based on the treatment regime, choose the appropriate stock type to match the site (there is no need to put a \$0.25 tree into a \$0.10 hole),
 - Choose the appropriate planting season (spring vs. summer), and remember that stock types shouldn't be used as a substitute for correct planting date nor should they be used to alleviate poor soil conditions,

Seedling Stock Types From the Past



- Years ago we ordered numerous stock types, because, naturally, Foresters had their favorites and felt some performed better than others. Looking back at some old requests, we had in excess of 17 different stock types and 30 or more Request Keys, just for Canfor-Prince George alone:
 - This equated to a lot of pain and frustration, not only for us but for the nurserymen and growers,
 - We had numerous Request Keys, all specific to each Forester, doubling up on some Request Keys,

- As Canfor grew, we felt the need to standardize stock types and, believe me, this wasn't a simple exercise:
 - We now have 6 different stock types that suit our needs, these being:
 - Easy/Moderate Regimes: PSB 309A, 411B,
 - Difficult Regimes: PSB 410,412B, 412A,
 - Extreme Regimes: PSB 512A (fill pants),
 - Of course, these are further divided by spring 1+0, summer 1+0, summer 2+0 & spring 2+0 stock types (where summer planting is not an option),
 - In addition to this, we also request some 1/4 + 1/2 summer stock types

- Canfor Silviculture Foresters now submit draft sowing requests to a “ Canfor Seedling Coordinator”:
 - These draft sowing requests are submitted to the Seedling Coordinator early in the fall rather than later,
 - The Seedling Coordinator will assess all of the requests and strive to combine similar ones into one large Sowing Request,
 - A single Sowing Request may be in excess of 4 million seedlings,
 - Large requests help simplify nursery management, growing regimes and tracking overall (everybody is happy),



- Don't waste valuable seed and seedlings:
 - Tell the Nursery Representative what you want,
 - Use the “Extractable Plug” theory, especially when using “A” class seed,
 - We have found that if a seedling is extractable and planted on an appropriate microsite, it will grow and perform to expectations,

- Select appropriate stock types and species by season,
- Minimize Regeneration Delay (wherever possible),
- Be proactive rather than reactive with field treatments (by the time you realize you have a problem, it may be too late to correct it without spending a lot of money)
- Foresters should take responsibility for their sowing requests and maintain a good dialogue with the selected nursery / grower (there is no need for surprises at time of lift),
- Exchange and share experiences and information with other colleagues