

Title:	Mandatory Use of Improved Seed for Reforestation
Number:	AAF, Forestry Policy, 2016, No. AF-FP-2016-02
Program Name:	Forest Management Branch, Forest Health and Adaptation
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Purpose

To enhance the deployment of improved seed from approved Alberta tree breeding programs referred to as Controlled Parentage Programs (CPP) used for reforestation activities on timber dispositions. Seed with known and selected parentage offers advantages of having been tested for specific traits that enhance the value of the seedlings to achieve forest sustainability. Improved seed, made available for sale, shall be used by timber disposition holders undertaking reforestation activities in order to capture this increased value to forest sustainability.

Context

Reforestation of harvested timber dispositions is required under the *Timber Management Regulation*. Selection of reforestation activities to achieve the required forest conditions on timber dispositions is made and committed to within an approved Forest Management Plan (FMP) by the timber disposition holder. Through the Annual Operating Plan (AOP), specific treatment regimes are selected for specific harvested areas in order to achieve the reforested conditions assumed in the FMP. Where artificial reforestation activities are planned (in the FMP) and approved to occur (in the AOP), the use of CPP origin seed (Stream 2) with minimum improved traits, as made available for sale by proponents (surplus seed) from approved CPP production units, must be used.

Procedures

Where an orchard has produced a seedlot with an approved genetic worth which meets the thresholds below, and the seed has an unrestricted registration, it shall be deemed as eligible to be declared as improved surplus seed.

Improved surplus seed may be any of:

- a) Seedlots with an approved genetic worth of at least 2% increase in height at rotation, produced in the 2016 crop year or subsequent years, or
- b) Seedlots with an approved genetic worth at least 1% increase in height at rotation from crops produced in years prior to the 2016 crop year; or
- c) Seedlots with an approved genetic worth (based upon traits other than height at rotation) as approved by Alberta.

Where a company has developed an orchard and the approved gain is less than the genetic worth threshold (a, b or c above) the seed is not eligible to be declared as improved surplus seed. However, the company may use that seed within the CPP region and is not required to purchase improved surplus seed that meets genetic worth thresholds above.

Consideration of genetic worth based upon traits other than height with improved characteristics that have been quantitatively verified from progeny testing, may be approved as meeting approved genetic worth threshold, where Alberta approves such in writing.

The mandatory use of improved surplus seed applies only to those seedlots meeting the genetic worth thresholds, and declared surplus by the owners of the orchard from which the seed was sourced. Where Stream 2 seed is made available for sale by parties other than the orchard owner, it is not deemed improved surplus seed and is not subject to this directive.

Where timber disposition holders wish to deploy wild seed collections (Stream 1) in variance to this directive (i.e. Stream 2 seed is available) an application in writing must be made to Alberta, prior to submission of the Annual Operating Plan covering the harvested areas where artificial reforestation activities are planned. In the sole discretion of Alberta, a variance to the requirement for the mandatory use of improved surplus seed may be issued. Application for variance to the requirement of this directive must be made annually. An application for a variance in the form of letter is submitted to the Director of Forest Health and Adaptation.

Seedlot prices shall be set by each orchard owner for each registered seedlot declared as improved surplus seed. Declaration of improved surplus seed for sale is entirely at the discretion of the orchard owner and must be made to Alberta by September 1st, annually. Declaration of improved surplus seed is to be made in writing to Alberta stating the seedlot number, amount of seed being declared, the price per unit and the seller contact information. The declared price will be fixed until the next declaration period. Where, in an approved FMP, an orchard owner has committed to deploy Stream 2 seed, that entity may only declare seed as surplus where it is not needed to meet FMP deployment commitments.

Alberta shall publish a listing by September 15th, annually, documenting the amount of improved surplus seed being made available for purchase, its price, the CPP region where it is approved for deployment, the seedlot's approved genetic worth for specified trait together with seller contact information. That published list shall be the source of information to support implementation of this directive.

Where the seed purchaser is not operating under an FMP that has approved the use of Stream 2 seed, this directive shall be equivalent to that approval. Any expected uplift in harvestable volume resulting from the deployment of Stream 2 seed on the Timber Supply Analysis (TSA), shall only be considered when the next TSA is conducted.

The terms and conditions of the sale shall be the exclusive private domain of the seller and purchaser. Alberta provides no guarantee as to the condition of the seed, or the veracity of the source information provided by the seller.

Where Alberta has Stream 2 seed to be made available as improved surplus seed, Alberta shall only declare improved surplus seed in an amount equal to or less than the cumulative amount of improved surplus seed declared from all other CPP sellers for each CPP region. However, where demand exceeds declared supplies of improved seed, Alberta may offer for sale additional improved surplus seed. Where no improved surplus seed is declared for a CPP region, Alberta may declare any amount of seed as surplus.

Contact Information

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Authorities

Forests Act

Timber Management Regulations.144.2

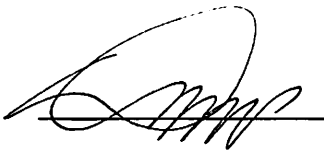
Alberta Forest Genetic Resources Management and Conservation Standards

Alberta Forest Management Planning Standard (2006)

Approved

Original signed by

Date



11 OCTOBER 2016

Darren Tapp
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