

Growing Hybrid Poplars for Bioenergy and Biomaterials



Virginia
Cooperative Extension

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VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY



Southside and Southwest Virginia are investing heavily in the development of sustainable bioenergy and biomaterials industries. Development of these industries has a great potential to strengthen and diversify the economies of these areas. Achieving a sustainable biomass-based industry is contingent on the development of perennial energy crops for Southside and Southwest Virginia, specifically a mixture of both perennial and herbaceous woody crops.

Poplars and their hybrids are the fastest growing trees in the temperate zone and are widely considered to be the premier candidate for woody bioenergy feedstock production. Although widely grown successfully in many areas of North America, hybrid poplar is just beginning to be bred, tested and selected for growing in Southside and Southwest Virginia.

In this first year of testing in Virginia, we are in the process of identifying elite poplar hybrid varieties possessing superior characteristics and wood quality for bioenergy production across Virginia. Be one of the first to learn about this exciting research and how it applies to you!

Learn about:

- bioenergy and wood fiber
- hybrid poplar history and science
- establishing plantations
- growth and yield
- the regional relevance of the hybrid poplar trial project

Join us at one of two workshops in Virginia:

10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Oct. 9 Norton, Virginia

Oct. 16 Petersburg, Virginia

Your registration fee of \$15 per person includes: coffee and refreshments, lunch, and materials.

Agenda

- Welcoming Remarks
- Overview of the Bioenergy and Wood Fiber Situation in Virginia and Beyond
- Hybrid Poplar History and State of the Science
- Break
- Methods for Establishing and Managing Hybrid Poplar Plantations
- Lunch
- Tracking Growth and Yield
- Regional Relevance of the Hybrid Poplar Trial Project
- Visit the Field Site for Interpretive Discussion
- Wrap-up and Adjourn by 3:00

Directions

Holiday Inn, Norton

1051 Park Avenue SW, Norton Virginia
276/679-6655

From I-81, take Exit 19 for US-58/US-11 towards Damascus/Abingdon; Turn right on E. Main St./US-11 (go 2.7 mi.); Turn right at Russell Rd. NW (go 1 mi.); Turn right at Porterfield Hwy/US-19/US 58 and follow for 12.2 mi.; Turn left at US-58 (go 36.5 mi.). The Holiday Inn will be on your left in Norton. Directions to the Powell River Project will be provided during the meeting.

Randolph Farm

4415 River Road, Petersburg, Virginia
804/504-7060

From I-95, take Exit 54 (Temple Ave.) in Colonial Heights. At end of exit ramp, turn left. Turn left at 2nd traffic signal onto Route 301 (Boulevard). Drive to the 4th traffic signal staying in the right hand lane until reaching traffic signal with WaWa Gas on right. Turn right onto Dupuy Road. Drive for 1 and ¼ mile past VSU to traffic signal. Curve to the right at the yield sign, passing over the railroad bridge, and continue straight for another ¼ mile on River Rd. Slow down, at the first gated entrance to Randolph Farm, turn left, or proceed to the next left at the, Pavilion (Randolph Farm Auditorium), which has a large parking area.



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Please circle which one you will attend:

Oct. 9 Norton, Virginia

Oct. 16 Petersburg, Virginia

Registration opens at 9:00 a.m.

Program begins at 10:00 a.m.

Please pre-register at least one week in advance

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Dietary Restrictions _____

Registration fee is \$15 per person
Submit form with check for registration fee payable to:
Treasurer, Virginia Tech
Attn: Tracey Sherman
228 Cheatham Hall 0324
Blacksburg, VA 24061

For more information:
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