

## **Choosing the Proper Plant Material for Environmental Applications – A Challenge**

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Choosing the proper plant material for environmental applications is a challenge. Consideration must be given to the plant origin, soil, microclimate, pests, diseases, and application goals. Choosing material adapted to the local growing season is essential. Nurserymen are reluctant to grow a diverse set of new varieties without a reliable market. Landowners and entrepreneurs tend to use available, cheaper material for environmental applications rather than appropriate difficult-to-find varieties; they are often in short supply. Planting inappropriate plant material usually leads to poor growth performance. Thus, a chick and egg dilemma develops. Forest geneticists must be more proactive in working with nurserymen to scale up promising varieties. Plant material must be named, labelled, and kept separate. A phased approach for matching the proper plant material to the site for environmental applications is presented.