

Learning from our mistakes: achievements and misfortunes in phytotechnology

Michel Labrecque

Plant Biology Research Institute, (Institut de recherche en biologie végétale), Montreal
Botanical Garden

Over the last ten years, our research group has been conducting a variety of phytotechnology projects to address environmental problems in southern Quebec, Canada. Willows and poplars, which constitute highly productive and resistant tools for phytotechnology, were used in the majority of these projects. A number of case studies will be presented, showing both excellent and less successful results. Phytotechnologies' reliance on plants necessarily implies a risk associated with the management of living material. Furthermore, monitoring and maintenance in the mid-long term are necessary to ensure best results. Unfortunately, too many studies are conducted over too short a time period, leading to hasty conclusions.