

Book Review

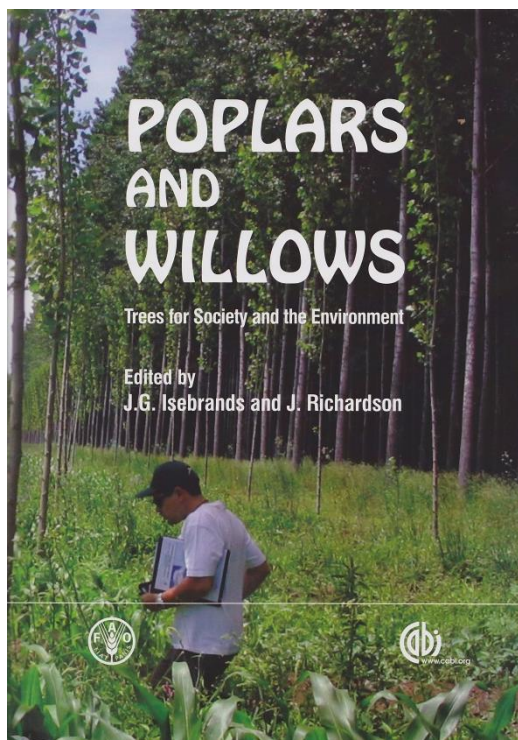
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Poplars and Willows: Trees for Society and the Environment. Edited by J.G. Isebrands and J. Richardson. ISBN 978-1-78064-108-9. 656 pages. £135.00/€175.00/\$255.00. E-book available through Google Books along with free chapter previews.

This work is an update and replacement for the 1980 publication *Poplars and Willows in Wood Production and Land Use* and is a co-publication of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations and the Centre for Agricultural Bioscience International (CABI). It is essentially a collection of 11 papers plus an introduction and epilogue to tie them together. The contributors' section lists 67 names from institutions around the world, although first authorship of the chapters is generally skewed towards those from North America.

The 11 chapters cover the following broad topics:

- A general description of poplars and willows around the world with particular emphasis on those important in silviculture. This section includes 41 color maps showing the growing range of selected species.
- An overview of the ecology and physiology with brief details of nine species of *Populus* and seven species of *Salix*. A plant physiology section dealing with abiotic stresses, including several pages of tables listing summaries of recent studies of drought stress. Two separate chapters deal with problems such as diseases, insects and other pests of poplars and willows.
- Domestication and conservation of poplars and willows with discussion of genetics and commercial breeding. The domestication of willows in specific countries around the world is discussed in detail.



- The process of growing and harvesting large stands of *Populus* and *Salix* for commercial use such as bioenergy, pulpwood, panels, sawn wood, veneer, agriculture and specialty products. A later chapter complements this one by dealing with the properties and utilization of the resulting tree products. There is also a chapter taking a look ahead at the economics and world market trends for wood and specifically poplar and willow wood products.
- The use of various poplar and willow species for environmental purposes such as windbreaks, living fences and soil erosion control. Case studies from around the world are presented along with a section of color photographs showing plantations, pests and the manufacture of various products from poplar. The final chapter looks at case studies of the use of trees in rural areas as well as for sustainable development.

The book contains a glossary of terms, particularly those unique to the discussion of the genera *Populus* and *Salix*, but also encompassing general terminology concerning plant physiology, anatomy and genetics.

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