



Organized by Mendel University in Brno

Coppice forests: past, present and future

**CONFERENCE INFORMATION,
PROGRAM
&
BOOK OF ABSTRACTS**

EDITED BY

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Conference Information

PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE OF THE COPPICE SILVICULTURAL SYSTEM IN
THE ITALIAN NORTH-WEST

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KEYWORDS: silviculture, high forest, coppice, coppice with standard, conversion, fallow
lands

The coppice management system is still widespread in northern Italy. In the past most of the broadleaves were coppiced with short rotations due to the high request of firewood and charcoal. Over the last decades local and global dramatic socio-economic changes have produced a decline in overall firewood exploitation, a lengthening of the rotations and a generalized abandonment of marginal coppice stands. The only way to contrast this trend has been, in the last decades, a systematic conversion from coppice to high forest. Due to the fact that most of the conversion silvicultural treatments are costly and that the entire conversion process requires many decades this policy is not sustainable yet. The Piedmont region, taking into account the current dynamics, the expectations of the stakeholders and the supply of the ecosystem services has introduced new rules for the coppice silvicultural system allowing also the coexistence between gamic and agamic regeneration in the same stand. Current coppice and mixed regeneration stand silvicultural situation and future perspectives are presented and discussed.

SURVEY OF MANAGEMENT OF PRIVATE OWNED COPPICE FORESTS IN LATVIA

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KEYWORDS: Private forest owners, coppice forests, management

Results are obtained within the scope of the project "Monitoring of private forest management and forest ownership consolidation and cooperation process". In overall, 1,124 of 111,836 forest owners are surveyed. Most of them are representing small forest estates of up to 50 ha (84%), which is similar to the forest ownership in the country - 97% are holdings with total area up to 50 ha). Almost half of the owners (58%) deal with coppice forestry, which is more popular in a group of forest owners having more than 50 ha of forest, 70% of them managing some of their properties as coppice forest. Tree species represented in coppice forests are birch (71%), aspen (60%), grey alder (51%), black alder (12 %), willows (9 %), other species (7%) and 3% with no answered. Willows and grey alder are more often mentioned by small size forest properties owner's group. Half of the owners additionally to deciduous trees coppice are planting some coniferous species. The most common rotation period of coppice forest is 40 years – 30% of responses (age of final felling for aspen is 40 years); 29% of respondents preferring to harvest before stand reaches 15 years age, which is legal for grey alder stands and plantation forests; only 8 % of respondents answered that longer than 40 years rotation is used. No responses on rotation length was received from 34% of respondents. Only 9% of respondents are considering the possibility to establish short rotation coppice (SRC); 24 % are not decided.