

### Availability

Nursery owners may obtain propagated material from the Big Flats Plant Materials Center, Corning, New York, to start their block(s) for commercial production. For the names of commercial nurseries that sell 'Spike' or for more information on its use, contact your local NRCS office or Soil and Water Conservation District.

### For More Information

Visit our Plant Materials Internet site at <http://Plant-Materials.nrcs.usda.gov> to find more information on solving conservation problems using plants.

USDA NRCS  
Big Flats Plant Materials Center  
RD #1, Box 360A, Rt. 352  
Corning, NY 14830  
phone: (607) 562-8404  
fax: (607) 562-8516



## 'Spike' Hybrid Poplar



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An improved  
conservation  
plant developed by  
the Big Flats Plant  
Materials Center,  
Corning, NY



## Spike' Hybrid Poplar

'Spike' hybrid poplar is a fast growing deciduous tree which grows up to 100 feet. 'Spike' is a male clone of a hybrid, and will not spread by seed. It was selected for biomass and fuel wood production. It also can be used as a windbreak with other windbreak species, and utilized as a short rotational woody crop in agro-forestry systems. 'Spike' was selected for its resistance to canker.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service; Institute for Forestry and Nature Research; SUNY, College of Environmental Science and Forestry and the Forest Gene Conservation Association all cooperated in the release of 'Spike'.

### Adaptation

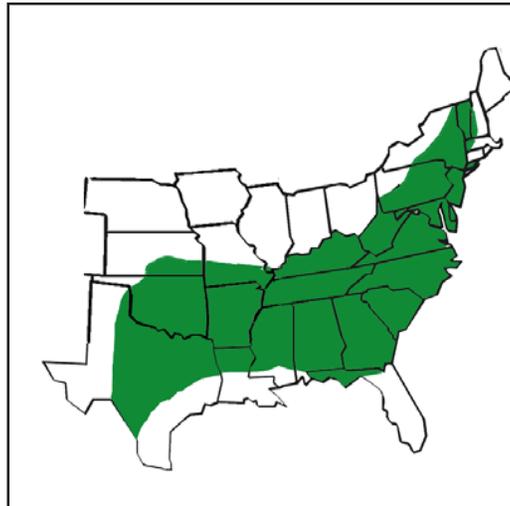
'Spike' hybrid poplar grows well in clay loam, sandy loam and in peat soils. It has been noted to do well on wetter sites than some other clones of poplar. It is adapted from New Hampshire to northern Florida, central Texas and west to Kansas.



### Site Preparation

Mechanical site preparation and weed control utilizing plowing and disking is suitable. In New York State, site preparation must begin a year prior to planting, because sites tend to be too wet to allow access with equipment early enough in the spring for successful site preparation the year of planting. Mechanical site preparation and weed control utilizing plowing and disking is suitable. Mechanical preparation combined with weed control has proven to be more effective in the Northeast than mechanical preparation alone.

### Area of Adaptation for 'Spike'



### Propagation

Cuttings of hybrid poplar are planted in woody beds, 2"-3" apart. Rooted cuttings are planted as early in the spring as possible, when the ground has thawed enough to allow pushing cuttings 10" deep and placed 10 feet apart. In planting areas with high winds, 'Spike' should be protected by other wind-proof species.

### Weed Control

Controlling competing weed species is important. Weeds compete with hybrid poplars for light as well as nutrients. Pre-emergence herbicides should be applied to bare soil.