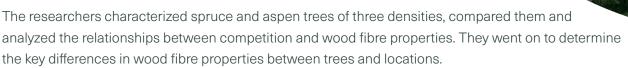
# Evaluating fibre attributes of Spruce and Aspen





Evaluating the impact of stand composition and inter-tree competition on fibre attributes of spruce and aspen grown in mixedwood stands

# **ORGANIZATION**

University of Northern British Columbia

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# **START DATE**

1 May 2018

### **END DATE**

31 March 2020

### **COLLABORATORS**

Lisa Wood, University of Northern British Columbia; British Columbia Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development; Mackenzie Pulp Mill Corp. The team's main objective was to characterize the fibre attributes of coniferous and deciduous trees growing in mixedwood stands (consisted of hardwood and softwood) which vary by density. The attributes include wood density, wood stiffness, fibre coarseness, ring widths and orientations, and fibre orientations.

By the end of the project, researchers would have a clear understanding of the competition between select trees. The two-year project's activities included:

- Sampling and selecting spruce and aspen from different plantations
- Analyzing and comparing their cores to evaluate their individual traits
- Conducting a thorough statistical analysis of all recorded data to find the relationship between competition and fibre properties at each location

Significant differences were found in properties and responses to treatment between spruce and aspen. For example, the findings indicate that ring width decline outweighs the effects of competition among trees. Overall, the researchers concluded that spruce is more sensitive to competition than aspen.

This project supports diversified forests. Such forests provide benefits for wildlife and biodiversity; makes canadian forests more resilient to disturbances such as climate change, forest fires and insect outbreaks; and reduce the need for herbicides. This project offers forest managers practical data for better, better informed decision-making that considers First Nations, wildlife, and biodiversity needs. The data include information on softwood and hardwood growth, fibre attributes, and wood quality from pure and mixedwood stands.

Cat. No. Fo4-168/2021E-PDF (Online) ISBN 978-0-660-40564-3

Aussi disponible en français sous le titre: Évaluation de l'effet de la composition du peuplement et de la compétition entre les arbres sur les attributs de la fibre d'épinettes et de trembles en peuplements mixtes

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