

## **Black Willow Selection and Performance in Mississippi**

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In the Phase I portion of the Mississippi State University/USDA Center for Bottomland Hardwood Research Black Willow Joint Venture, a total of 114 black willow clones from five geographic areas were randomly selected from natural one and two-year-old stands along the Mississippi, Atchafalaya, Brazos, and Trinity rivers. This material was tested in 2010 and 2011 and selections of the top volume producing clones selected and included in tests in 2012 and 2013. Clonal performance of the 2010 test site located at Stoneville, MS was tracked annually through age five. This data provides information on clonal rank changes through time and early age selection efficiency that can be used for future tests. In addition, performance of the selected clones in the 2012 and 2013 trials will also be discussed.

**Keywords:** Black willow, marginal alluvial land, growth, selection

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**Biography:**

BS and MS from Louisiana State University and a PhD from Mississippi State University

25 years of experience in numerous hardwood species with Westvaco and MeadWestvaco

Currently, nine years at Mississippi State University with an Extension/Research split appointment. My research efforts have included loblolly pine genetic testing, eastern cottonwood breeding and testing, and black willow testing and improvement.