

Fact Sheet

'Weraiti'

Populus deltoides x *P. nigra*

NZ 5018



THE NEW ZEALAND
POPLAR & WILLOW RESEARCH TRUST

'Weraiti' is a *P. x euramericana* hybrid, resulting from a 1980 NZ cross between *P. deltoides* and *P. nigra* 'Italica'. It was first released commercially in 1996.

Characteristics

'Weraiti' leaves are similar in shape to 'Veronese' with a straight base and a slightly undulating leaf margin. The leaves are dark green above and light green below.

'Weraiti' has a narrow-medium sized crown with excellent leader dominance, a heavy stem and occasionally a few heavy branches. 'Weraiti' is female.

Uses

'Weraiti' is suitable for soil conservation and timber production, particularly in eastern regions. It has good wind and drought tolerance and can be used in the lower slopes, below 'Argyle' and 'Veronese'.

'Weraiti' is susceptible to rust and possums, but less so than varieties 'Dudley' and 'Selwyn'.

Performance

Growth rates of 'Weraiti' rank alongside 'Argyle' as the highest of the 1980 series of *P. x euramericana* hybrids. In a Wairarapa trial (ann. rainfall 850 mm), 'Weraiti' at age 12 had an average diameter (dbh) of 36 cm (c.f. 'Argyle' 37 cm, 'Kawa' 27 cm). However it was the tallest variety, with an average height of 17.9 m (c.f. 'Argyle' 16.3 m, 'Kawa' 15.4 m). At age 12 in Manawatu (ann. rainfall 1200 mm) and at age 13 in Otago (ann. rainfall 600 mm), 'Weraiti' dbh averaged 26 cm and 24 cm respectively.

'Weraiti' is performing well in established Canterbury, Manawatu, Hawkes Bay and Auckland trials, however it is significantly slower growing than the *P. maximowiczii* x *P. nigra* hybrids and 'Shinsei' in the wetter climate of Te Kuiti (ann. rainfall 1500 mm).



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