

PROJECT NO. 08I209
Progress Report - 1996
By Dr. Gary Noller

Narrowleaf Cottonwood (Populus angustifolia)
Initial Evaluation Planting for Riparian Areas

INTRODUCTION:

Riparian areas in much of the Upper Colorado Region are in need of revegetation materials. Narrowleaf cottonwood is a native species that can be found in riparian areas in the Upper Colorado Region. Cultivars of narrowleaf cottonwood are not available commercially for this region.

OBJECTIVE:

To establish at the Upper Colorado Environmental Plant Center an initial evaluation planting of narrowleaf cottonwood.

METHODS:

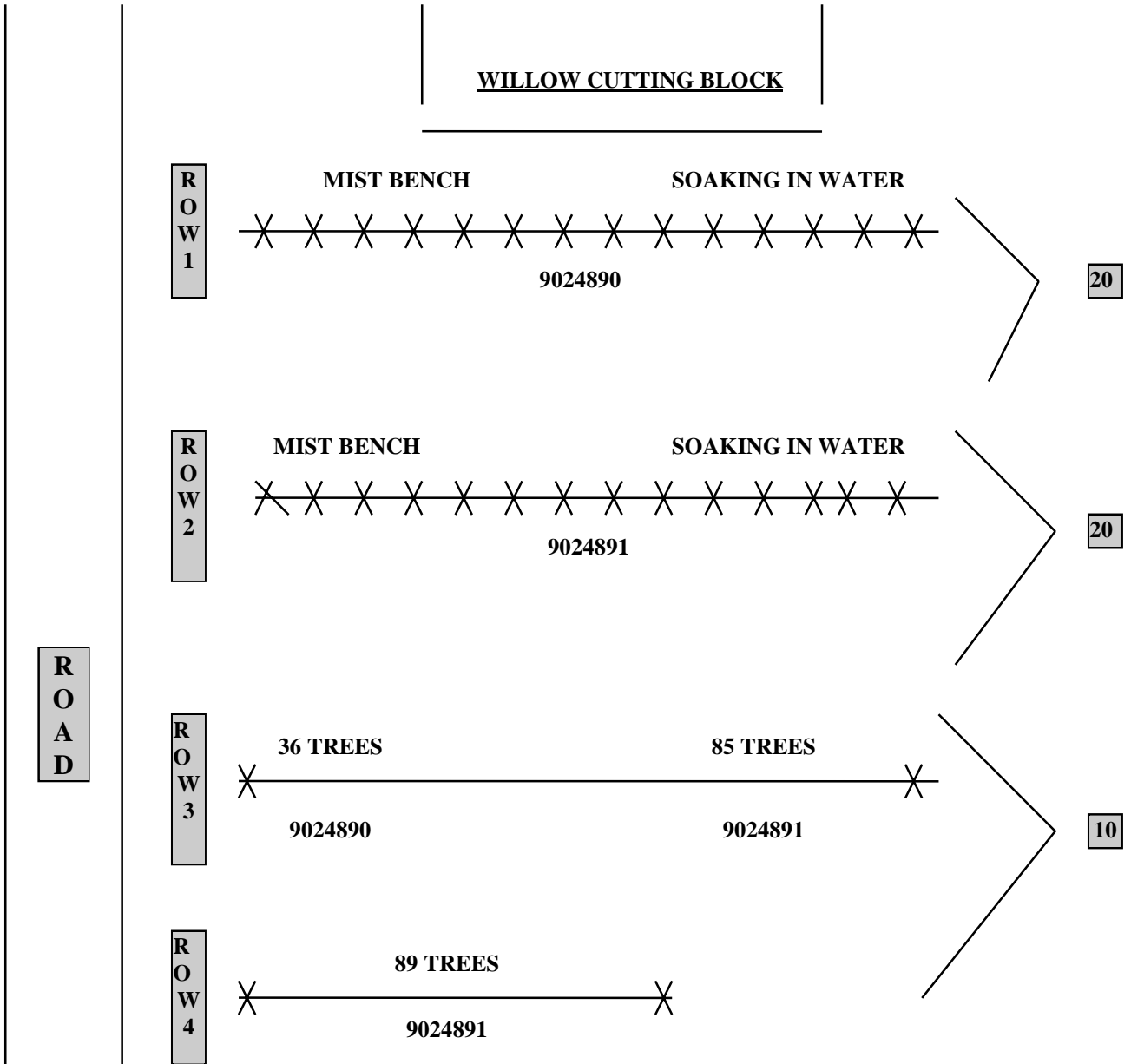
In 1991 two accessions of narrowleaf cottonwood: 9024890 Meeker, Colorado and 9024891 Walden, Colorado were planted in Field 5 of the UCEPC. See attached plot plan (Figure 1). These cottonwoods were harvested from native stands near Meeker and Walden. Pole cuttings approximately 18" in length were cut from these existing stands and planted in field 5 in April of 1991.

Treatment methods included placing cuttings in water for 10-15 days or in the Plant Center greenhouse mist bench for 10-15 days. After treatment, poles were planted directly into field 5 and irrigated immediately after planting. The planting was weeded and irrigated as needed during the 1991 growing season.

Survival as of December 30, 1991 was 28% for the Meeker accession and 5% for the Walden accession.

On April 28, 1992, the surviving narrowleaf cottonwoods were transplanted in one row in field 5 (Figure 2). On August 28, 1996 both accessions are approximately 18-20 feet tall and 15 feet wide. No meaningful difference can be seen between the two accessions, however, in 1991, the Meeker accession had the best survival.

WILLOW CUTTING BLOCK



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08I209 Narrowleaf cottonwood

Planted April 1991

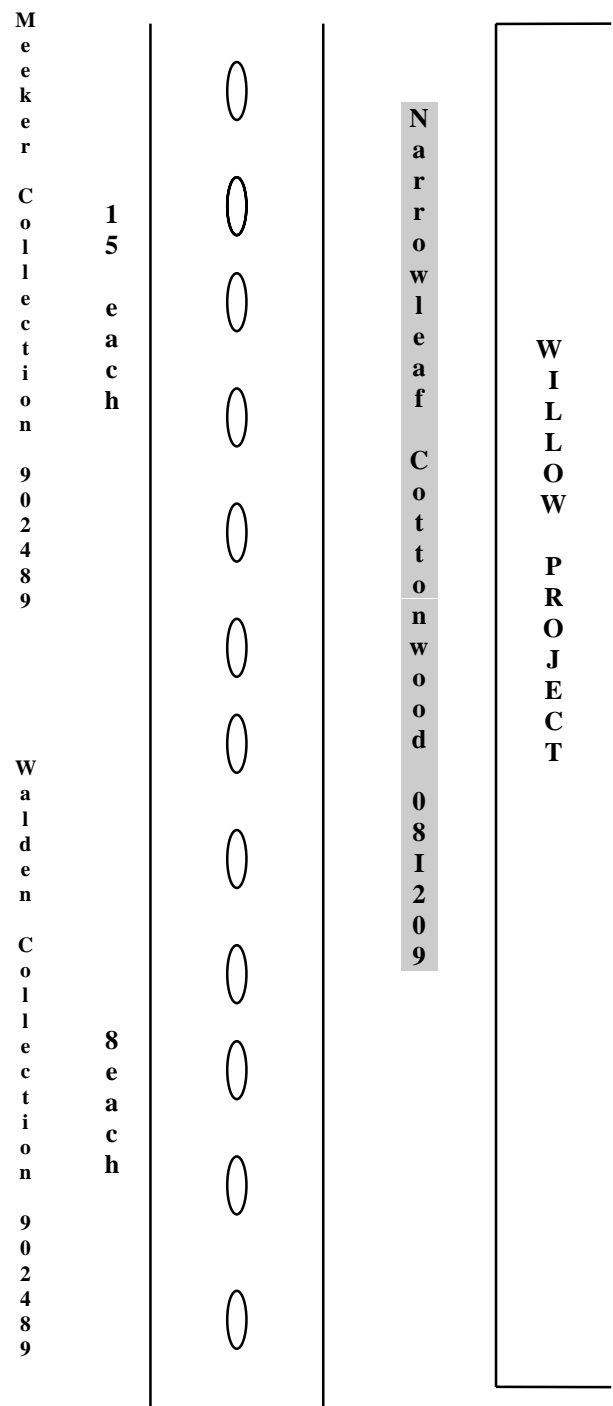
Rows 1 and 2 20' spacing between rows and 15' between trees

Rows 3 and 4 10' spacing between rows and 3' between trees

FIGURE 1. Plot plan for 1991 planting



FIELD 5



Narrowleaf cottonwood
1 row transplanted from 1991
planting.
Transplanted on 4/8/92 by
Siw Robertson
Danny Goodson
Row Spacing
Trees are 15' apart in the row

FIGURE 2. Plot plan of 1992 transplanting

