
MICROSITE SELECTION AND THE INFORMED PLANTER

A CRITICAL STEP

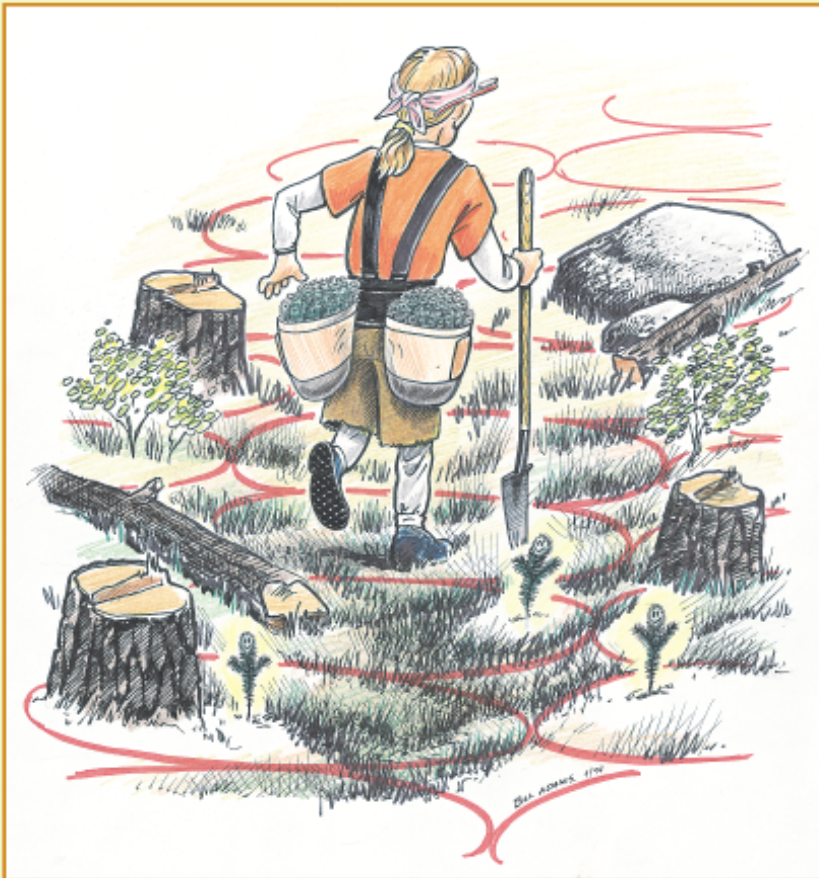
Every year, more than 200 million seedlings are planted in B.C. Our ability to successfully reforest logged areas has improved tremendously since the first trees were planted in the 1930s. We now have the knowledge and technology to produce vigorous seedlings that are genetically suited to the areas they are planted. As a treeplanter, you are an important link in the reforestation process.

Every day, you have the difficult job of handling and planting hundreds of seedlings to give each one the best chance for survival and growth.

Choosing the best planting spot is critical. This presentation is designed to help you understand microsite planting - that is, how to choose the best possible planting spot for each seedling you plant.

WHAT IS MICROSITE PLANTING?

Microsite planting is thinking about and selecting the *best* location to plant the seedling.



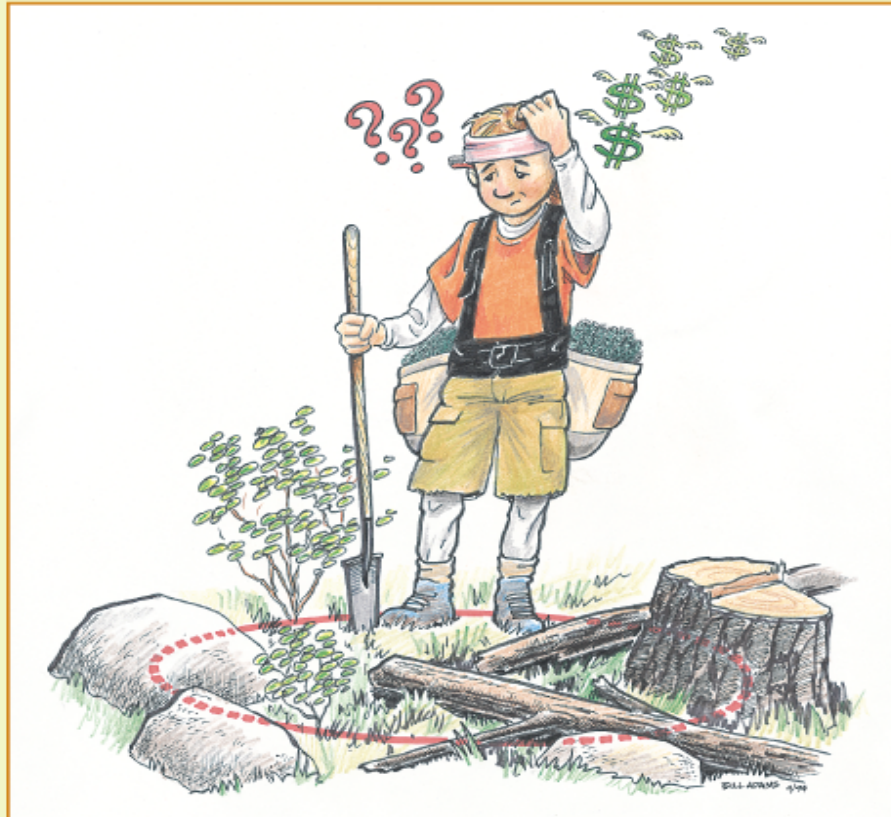
A microsite is a spot within a small area of the landscape. The treeplanter in this illustration is aware of small differences in topography, planting materials, and vegetation.

Within the confines of the spacing rules, there are many choices about where to plant each seedling. You could choose to plant on mounds, in depressions, beside stumps, under bushes, in mineral soil, or in rotten logs.

Each of these microsites would provide different growing conditions for the seedling and the planter must use their knowledge of the requirements for seedling growth to choose the best one.

**Planting the best microsite does not have to
slow you down!**

This is not the intention.



As a treeplanter, you work extremely hard for your money, and every movement counts. Choosing the best microsite does not have to slow you down. Very often, the best microsites are the easiest to plant, and once you know what you are looking for, the process will become second nature.

Easier planting=faster planting=less down time

★ SAME SITE ★ SAME SPECIES
★ SAME STOCK TYPE

These trees are both 15 years old.

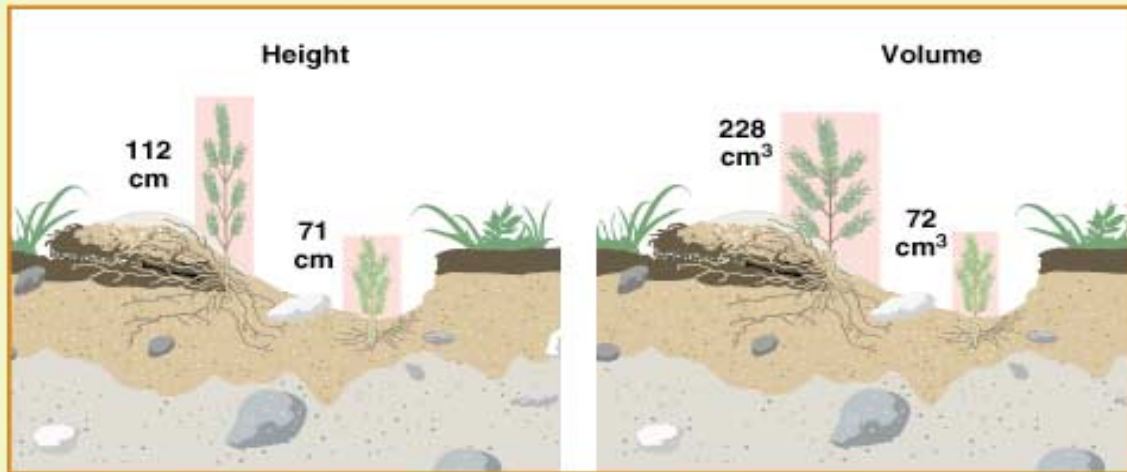


The Difference — Microsite!

Here is another example of the difference good microsite selection makes. **Both** these trees are 15 years-old. The difference is that the tree on the left was planted in dense shade under a black twinberry bush and the one on the right was planted in the open.

The extra thought and effort you take to select a good microsite will greatly benefit the forest that will follow.

The facts are in about microsite effects.



Year 5 Results – Tanli Lake Trials Vanderhoof Forest District

Good microsite selection can have a large and lasting effect on how well seedlings grow – or even whether they survive at all! In this example, the seedlings planted on the side of the trench are about 1½ times taller than those in the bottom, and they have over twice the stem volume.

Microsite selection makes a difference!