

MISSISSIPPI CERTIFIED COTTONWOOD AND THE PROCEDURE  
REQUIRED FOR CERTIFICATION

W. D. McNeel  
Mississippi Forestry Commission - Jackson, Mississippi

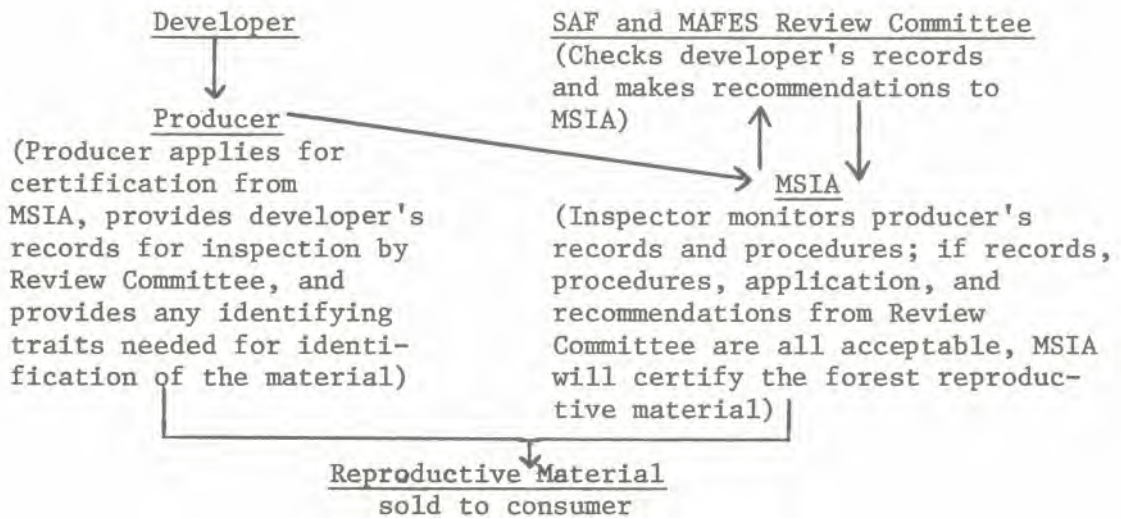
Each state has its own system of certification but I am sure that the procedure in any state would be about the same as for Mississippi.

First, someone must develop the material; then, someone must produce it. This may be the same party or agency or separate parties or agencies. They must provide developer's records and identifying records and apply for certification to the Mississippi Seed Improvement Association (MSIA).

The Mississippi Seed Improvement Association (MSIA) has been designated by legislation as the official seed certification agency and is the sole body which can legally certify reproductive material for agriculture and forestry.

The Planting Materials Certification Committee of the Mississippi Chapter of the Society of American Foresters and the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Experiment Station (MAFES); serving as a joint committee inspect the producer's records, procedures, applications and make recommendations to the MSIA on forestry reproductive material.

The following schematic diagram shows how the system works:



The Southern Forest Experiment Station at Stoneville developed the superior cottonwood clones and released them for production.

In 1973 the Mississippi Forestry Commission requested the MSIA to certify these clones for a Blue Tag and furnish the producer's records and records of identification.

The MSIA requested the SAY and MAFES Committee to review these records, the procedure of identification, our application and make recommendations.

Then, MSIA made a review of all records and procedures. After being assured that the stock was properly identified and met the standards, they authorized a Blue Tag certification.

In order to clarify what this certification means the following explanations are given:

- I. This cottonwood is a mixture of 5 clones and was certified with a Blue Tag for use in North Mississippi (North of US Route 80) for commercial plantations, for pulpwood and saw-timber production.
  - a. A mixture should be included in a plantation to insure against pest problems that could be associated with a given clone and reduce risk of growth loss of a given clone that may not be a good performer on a given site.
  - b. Certified for tree volume growth of 10% or above superiority (in the area).
- II. CERTIFY: To endorse authoritatively as being of the standard quality, qualifications or preparation represented or required.

III. TYPES OF CERTIFIED MATERIALS:.

- a. BLUE TAG - Known genetic identity - from trees of proven genetic superiority.
- b. GREEN TAG - From selected trees or stands that have promise of genetic superiority but that have not been progeny tested.
- c. YELLOW TAG - From (A) natural stand including seed production area with known geographic origin, (B) plantations of known provenance.

For more information on certification of Forest Reproductive Materials I suggest you contact the following persons:

Mr. W. W. Guerry  
Executive Secretary  
Mississippi Seed Improvement Association (A.A.L.)  
Mississippi State, Mississippi  
Phone (601) 323-3240

Dr. Sam Land, Committee Chairman  
Planting Materials Certification Committee  
Mississippi Chapter of Society of American Foresters  
Department of Forestry  
P.O. Drawer FD  
State College, Mississippi 39762  
Phone (601) 325-2946