

Is it natural? Clonal forestry in public/private spaces

Mariella Marzano

Forest Research, Northern Research Station, Roslin, Midlothian, Scotland

mariella.marzano@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Abstract

Within the framework of the three pillars of sustainability (social, economic and environmental), forestry is required to meet social and cultural needs, such as provision of recreation and contribution to enhanced quality of life. Forest management also involves nurturing the ecological capacity and economic potential of the forest resource base. Inevitably, it is necessary to build upon existing techniques or develop new ones in order to increase forestry's potential for sustainability. Clonal forestry has a range of possible benefits, including improving the productivity of key species. However, whilst it involves a natural reproductive process, it could be resisted in the public domain as being 'unnatural'. This presentation will explore social aspects of clonal forestry in Europe, looking at public preferences for forests, perceptions of risk and risk communication, and highlighting key questions that might need to be addressed for future social acceptability of this practice.