



Pacific Regional Society of Soil Science

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U.B.C.

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EDITOR'S REMARKS

A quick note as I have got to get back to my thesis writing. Thanks to all who have contributed to this issue. Once again we have a fine eclectic mix of articles. For future contributors, the next issue is scheduled for November. Of note, membership is still \$5.00. A list of all those paid up members is included on Page 4.

Bill Price

INDICATOR PLANTS OF COASTAL BRITISH COLUMBIA

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ABSTRACT

Selected plants of coastal British Columbia are described with regard to possible indicator values. Plant species are recognized as indicators of climate, soil moisture, soil nitrogen, and ground surface materials. Plant species with similar indicator values are grouped into indicator species groups which can be used to evaluate site quality. The information on each species with the exception of trees, includes a photograph, indication values, and selected distributional and ecological characteristics. This guide is a basic aid for foresters who use plants as site indicators.

Key words: indicator plants, indicator plant analysis, forest site quality, coastal British Columbia.

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2ND ANNUAL PEACE RIVER SOIL CONSERVATION CONFERENCE

What's all this fuss about soil erosion problems and conservation farming? Will conservation farming methods work under the Peace River weather and soil conditions? These questions and more were addressed at the 2nd annual Soil Conservation conference. It was held on Wednesday, March 23, 1988 from 8:00 a.m. until 9:30 p.m. at the George Dawson Inn in Dawson Creek.

Does conservation farming pay? This keynote speech was given by Dr. Jim Bauder, an Extension Soil and Tillage Specialist from the University of Montana. He drew on his extensive experiences with conservation tillage committees in Montana and cash flow case studies in southern Alberta.

Does zero tillage work with canola or forage production? Does zero tillage work on black or grey soils? These questions were posed to Garth Butcher, a canola producer from Birtle, Manitoba and Bruce McDougall, a forage producer from Breton, Alberta in the morning session of the conference.

Which seed drill is appropriate? What are the latest developments in conservation tillage equipment? Steve Egeland travelled from Jamestown, North Dakota to tell us about the development of drills 'from dinosaurs to satellites'. Sylvio Tessier, a tillage engineer from Swift Current evaluated various drills according to their performance and price.

Can input costs be reduced with legume plowdown? What conservation work is going on in other Canadian provinces? Larry Gramiak told us about Indian Head lentil production and other Save Our Soils programs in Saskatchewan. A video displayed the experiences of the Montana Cooperative Extension Service with Conservation Tillage Committees.

After a morning of speeches and following a hot buffet lunch the afternoon program began with an exciting presentation by Dr. Eldon Morey, Clinical Psychologist from Minnesota. Dr. Morey is known to many throughout the rural community across Canada through his monthly column in the 'Grainews' under the heading 'Why People Do What They Do' to which he contributed for 3 years. The first of 2 presentations at this conference entitled 'Even Good People Make Excuses and Blame Others', was thought provoking in its re-examination of the human side of farming.

The conference then featured a five-member farmer panel who discussed their first hand experiences with conservation farming practices. Henry Graw told how he designed and built his own drill, and successfully converted his whole farm to zero tillage. Dennis Torkelson from North Rolla described a very innovative double cropping scheme made possible by the zero tillage evaluation project. These and the other panel members brought together many years of knowledge under a variety of climatic and soil conditions.

Are zero till soils colder and wetter? How do zero and conventional tillage compare after 10 years? How can an effective weed control program be maintained under conservation practices? The conference featured more than 15 exhibits from across Western Canada to address these and many other concerns. A wide variety of exhibits included equipment, weed control, conservation projects and other agricultural displays.

The conference continued in the evening, beginning with a buffet banquet and Dr. Eldon Morey as a guest speaker. Dr. Morey's second presentation entitled "There's More to Life than Money in the Bank or Bushels in Bin" has been the most popular of his speeches presented across Canada and the United States this year. It focussed on the farm family, providing insight into how to have a fulfilling family life in spite of the financial hardships and emotional strife that plague farm families today.

The conference concluded with concurrent, informal group discussions with all speakers and exhibitors. This provided an opportunity to interact with these resource people on a one to one basis. This format allowed participants to discuss specific concerns on a variety of topics.

The conference was well attended: 178 people were present for the day session and 110 attended the evening session. The Peace River Soil Conservation Association received many compliments on the conference, and will host a similar conference again next spring.

Sandra Burton
Soil Conservationist

VIEWPOINT

A Change in Policy

No viewpoint articles were submitted for this issue. This is surprising given the great number of conflicting opinions that I hear each week. When a contribution to air these views is suggested, the usual response is along the lines of "What, and ruin a promising career!" With this in mind, henceforth this newsletter will, subject to the law of libel and possibly good taste, publish anonymous contributions.

To those who consider it unprofessional to submit views without your name attached, might I suggest that publishing conflicting views to those of your employer is one of the most certain means by which a soil scientist may attain amateur status. In the workplace hierarchy the power of the individuals rather than the ideas themselves often wins the day. The newsletter can provide a way around this. Without personal affiliation the ideas can be freely compared, and common perceptions may be judged in the light of reason. While caution in action may be admired, cautious thoughts lead to very slow progress. And let's face it, most of us clam up both for fear of showing our ignorance or that future work may prove us wrong. The result is dusty minds.

Bill Price
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U.B.C.

1988 Membership List - P.R.S.S.S.

Awmack, Ken	Louie Robert H.
Baker, Ted E.	• Lousier, J.D.
Ballard, Dr. T.M.	Lowe, Dr. L.E.
• Berch, Dr. S.M.	Luttmerding, Herbert A.
Bertrand, Ronald A.	McGill, William
Cade, Barbara J.	Maynard, Doug
Carter, Reid	Maxwell, Bob
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Dawson, Elaine	Rother, Patrice
Douglas, Mary-Jane	Rowles, C.
Driehuyzen, M.G.	H.S. Schreier
Epp, Philip	Selby, Corine
Fenger, Mike	Senyk, J.P.
Goldstein, Michael	Smith, Richard B.
Hackinen, Coleen	Spittlehouse, Dave
Jakoy, Andy	Timmenga, Hubert
• Jungen, John	Von Spindler, Bernie
Kabzems, Richard	Wiens, J.H.
Kalra, Yash Pal	Williams, Harry B.
Kline, Robert	Wittneben, U.
Kowalenko, C. Grant	Young, Gavin
Lindeburgh, Scott	

SOIL SURVEY INDEX FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA

The one page index map shows the availability of soil survey information for the the province of British Columbia, as of May 1988. The information was gathered by the Ministry of Environment and Parks, and Agriculture Canada, many as cooperative projects during the period from 1965 to 1980. The surveys for the national parks along the Alberta border were conducted by the Alberta Institute of Pedology.

NOTES

1. Scale of mapping range from 1:20,000 to 1:100,000.
2. Detail 1:20,000 information is available for the agricultural areas along the Coastal Lowland of Eastern Vancouver Island, and in the Lower Fraser, Okanagan, Similkameen and Pemberton valleys.
3. Colour maps are available for approximately one-third of the map area. Remainder available in diazo B&W prints.
4. Most maps have accompanying reports.
5. Some surveys are also available in digital format. (Ministry of Environment and Parks CAPAMP, or Agriculture Canada CANSIS. Contact Bob Louie.)
6. Small special project surveys are not shown on index, eg., Mill-Woodfibre Creek, Alta Lake, Cascade, Cummins River, Indian Reserves. Contact MAPS-B.C. for complete coverage.
7. More information on boundaries, scale, price, date of survey and reports available from MAPS - B.C., Surveys and Resource Mapping Branch, 553 Superior Street, Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X5; telephone: 387-1441.
8. Other sources of land information are also available in other maps - Wildlife Habitat, Biogeoclimatic, Terrain, Agriculture Capability, Forest Capability and special projects.
9. If you have comments, or information on additional coverage, please contact me.

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Province of British Columbia
Ministry of Environment

SOIL SURVEY INDEX

OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

MAY 1988

 Area surveyed

(See notes on other side.)

