

BUTTERNUT AWARENESS, CONSERVATION, EVALUATION, AND MONITORING PROGRAM FOR SOUTH CENTRAL ONTARIO

PROGRAM UPDATE - 2009

Summary of Overall Results

As of January 29th, 2010 a total of 187 butternut site location reports had been submitted and entered into the database. To date a total of 1765 butternut trees have been verified on 140 properties of which 185 trees in the database have been assessed as retainable. An additional 216 trees will be monitored for health and seed production. Seed was collected from 17 of 1309 potential trees. Total seed yield was 919 nuts of which 778 were processed by the Ontario Tree Seed Plant as potentially viable and shipped to 2 propagation nurseries for fall sowing. DNA analysis has been conducted on 49 trees and 42 of these were confirmed as pure butternut with the remaining 7 classified as hybrids with Japanese walnut.

In addition to the above 176 black walnuts were potted at the Fergusson Forest Station in eastern Ontario in the fall to be used as root stock for scions which will be collected and grafted by fiscal year-end. This stock will be used to create a local seed orchard to supplement the recovery effort. At the time of this report 17 inventory plots had been identified and prescribed cuts had been implemented at 6 of 7 identified sites.

Relevant to education and outreach the collaborative produced and distributed a revised program brochure, a new landowners' guide to butternut, and various program reports and mapping products; marketed the initiative at 12 events; posted information to stewardship council websites; and worked with MNR Communications Services Branch to produce articles for farm publications and newspapers. New partnership opportunities have also been identified and upcoming meetings are planned with Hydro One who is interested in funding the effort.

Summary of Results by Municipality

County of Simcoe: A total of 1058 butternuts have been verified of which 169 have been assessed. There are 90 retainable trees on record for the county and an additional 20 have been flagged for long-term monitoring. There are

319 dead trees on record; however, there are many more across the landscape. A total of 310 seeds were collected from the county this year.

County of Dufferin: A total of 181 butternuts have been verified of which 27 have been assessed. There are 13 retainable trees on record for the county and an additional 6 have been flagged for long-term monitoring. There are 56 dead trees on record; however, there are many more across the landscape. A total of 219 seeds were collected from the county this year.

Regional Municipality of York: A total of 132 butternuts have been verified of which 47 have been assessed. There are 35 retainable trees on record for the region and an additional 3 have been flagged for long-term monitoring. There are 45 dead trees on record; however, there are many more across the landscape. A total of 271 seeds were collected from the region this year.

Regional Municipality of Peel: A total of 164 butternuts have been verified of which 27 have been assessed. There are 25 retainable trees on record for the region and none have been flagged for long-term monitoring. There are 37 dead trees on record; however, there are many more across the landscape. A total of 14 seeds were collected from the region this year.

Regional Municipality of Halton: A total of 146 butternuts have been verified of which 29 have been assessed. There are 14 retainable trees on record for the region and an additional 3 have been flagged for long-term monitoring. There are 35 dead trees on record; however, there are many more across the landscape. No seed was collected from the region this year.

Counties of Grey and Bruce: A total of 32 butternuts have been verified of which 15 have been assessed. There are 6 retainable trees on record for the two counties and 1 additional tree has been flagged for long-term monitoring. There are 4 dead trees on record; however, there are many more across the landscape. A total of 105 seeds were collected from the two counties this year.

Priorities for 2010

Key priorities for 2010/11 include continued program outreach to generate awareness and secure landowner involvement; continued verification and assessment of butternut occurrences and monitoring of previously evaluated sites; the development and distribution of outreach and monitoring tools including the program brochure and the new landowners' guide to butternut, program reports, mapping products, and website and database updates; continued implementation of training workshops for field personnel; continued development of new partnerships to support program delivery and expansion; continued advancement of ongoing research efforts; continued monitoring of

silvicultural demonstration projects to evaluate the effectiveness of management strategies for retainable trees; and continued emphasis on the development and implementation of recovery strategies through seed and scion collection and subsequent propagation in support of out-planting, seed orchard development, and archiving efforts.