

Potential Use of Arundo donax as an Alternate Raw Material in Mix Agro Furnish for Making Chemical Pulp

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ABSTRACT

Scarcity of raw material continue to be a paramount problem and associated with an unbearable cost burden as well Afforestation programmes, which are vital, are still very meagre and industry is required to look for agro residue and locally available grasses which have good fibre potential. Contrary to this the search for new and prospective sources of fibrous raw materials for making pulp, suitable for printing and writing grade paper is never ending. Arundo donax commonly known in India as Nara or Nada is spread over lower shivalik foothills across Punjab & Himachal border. This raw-material is evaluated for its pulp and paper-making potential to produce chemical pulp . Data on chemical constituents, fibre dimensions, bleached yield and physical strength properties of pulp sheets were obtained. The unbleached pulp yields under soda pulping process were 41 to 42.2% with 21 to 25 Kappa No. Laboratory handmade pulp sheets with adequate strength properties were obtained from soda pulp prepared from this raw material.

Key words: Arundo donax, Kappa number, pulping, bleaching.