Can it work for you?

As with any other cropping or management system – agroforestry is not applicable to the entire landbase. Potential practitioners should identify objectives, opportunities, limitations and resources. Pre-planning is essential and should involve as much detail as possible including considerations for **marketing** as well as the **management** and **maintenance** of the system.
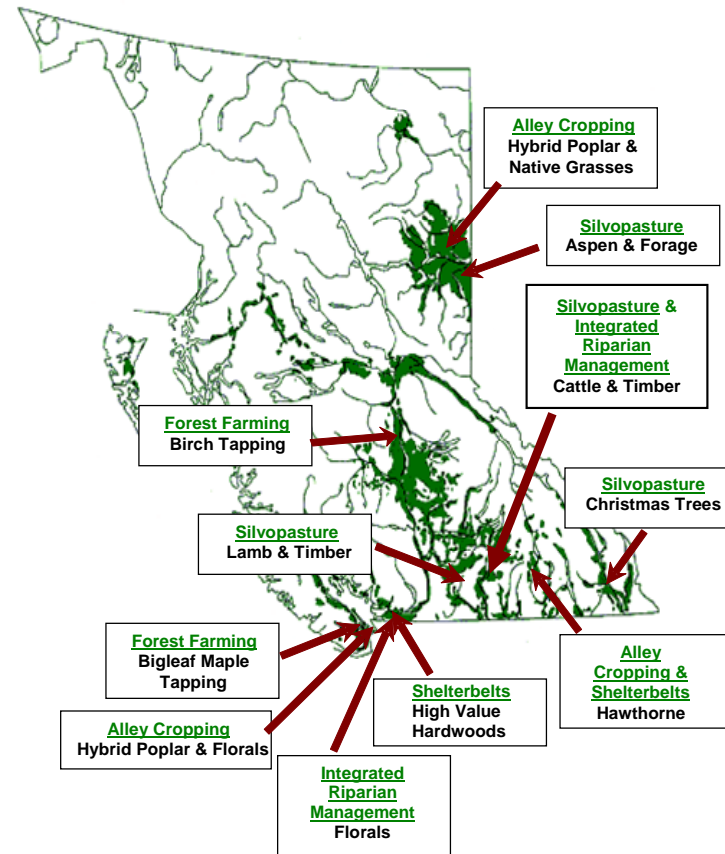
Current agroforestry activities in BC

Although relatively new as a specifically recognized concept for British Columbia, many areas in BC are suitable for agroforestry developments. The **Agroforestry Industry Development Initiative**, with funding from the **Investment Agriculture Foundation**, is working with various partners to grow a vibrant and sustainable agroforestry industry in BC. For more information, please visit our website.

Current Agroforestry Activities in BC:

Alley Cropping
Hybrid Poplar &
Native Grasses

Silvopasture
Aspen & Forage

**Silvopasture &
Integrated
Riparian
Management**
Cattle & Timber

Forest Farming
Birch Tapping

Silvopasture
Christmas Trees

Silvopasture
Lamb & Timber

Forest Farming
Bigleaf Maple
Tapping

**Alley
Cropping &
Shelterbelts**
Hawthorne

Alley Cropping
Hybrid Poplar & Florals

Shelterbelts
High Value
Hardwoods

**Integrated
Riparian
Management**
Florals

For more information:

BC Agroforestry Industry Development Initiative
http://www.woodlot.bc.ca/agroforestry/

Agroforestry
BRITISH COLUMBIA

Agroforestry is a land management approach that purposefully integrates the growing of trees with crops or livestock.

Integration can involve:

- *deliberately retaining or adding trees or shrubs into agriculture production systems; or*

- *deliberately adding or enhancing crops or livestock in forest production systems.*

Agroforestry represents the co-management of trees, crops and/or livestock and their interactions, contributing to diversification and sustainability of production.

Agroforestry systems are:

INTENTIONAL
They are specifically designed and managed for a planned result. Objectives are to enhance overall production of both the crop/livestock and timber-based products while simultaneously providing environmental benefits.

INTEGRATED
Systems are a blend of agriculture, forestry and conservation. Tree, crop and/or animal components are combined in a single management unit targeting overall production, thus the enterprise is managed and evaluated as a single system rather than as separate parts.

INTENSIVE or EXTENSIVE
Management intensity will vary depending on the system design and planned results.

INTERACTIVE
Systems are designed to minimize negative and maximize positive interactions between trees, other crops, livestock and humans.

Systems types:

There are **five main agroforestry systems**, all of which are practical for use in BC: alley cropping; shelterbelts and timberbelts; integrated riparian management; forest farming; and silvopasture. For more information on a particular system refer to the agroforestry initiative website for system-specific publications.

T. Zabek

Alley Cropping
Widely spaced rows of trees or shrubs with any of a wide variety of crops grown between (e.g. alternate crops grown between hawthorn shrub rows or native grass seed crops between poplars).

T. Zabek

Shelterbelts and Timberbelts
Includes windbreaks, buffers, hedgerows and fence line plantings. Rows of trees and/or shrubs that provide environmental goods and services (e.g. shelter from the wind, wildlife habitat, sequester carbon, filter dust, noise or odour), and also timber and non-timber products.

T. Zabek

Integrated Riparian Management
Management of areas adjacent to aquatic zones to enhance or protect habitat and also selectively provide timber and non-timber resources (e.g. cedar buffers from which boughs can be harvested, or red osier dogwood planted to prevent erosion and also produce decorative stems).

T. Zabek

Silvopasture
Integrated management of livestock, forages and trees (e.g. cattle grazing in native Christmas tree stands, and sheep used for vegetation management in forest plantations).

T. Zabek

Forest Farming
Forested systems managed for both timber and non-timber crops (e.g. tapping bigleaf maple in woodlots for syrup production or culturing huckleberries in the understory of a selectively harvested forest)