



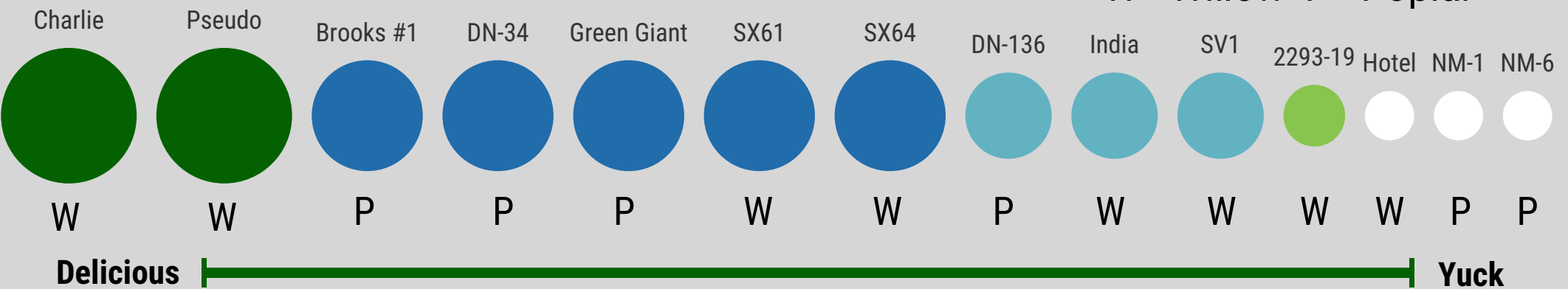
# Sheep Preferences 2016

## METHOD

Sheep were rotated through three paddocks planted with biomass-producing varieties of willow and poplar. The flock was monitored daily to determine how early and completely they browsed the new leaves and stems. The order and extent to which they ate each variety was noted, and ranked from most to least preferred. The ewes were given a mineral supplement to balance their tree based diet. The sheep were moved when forage became limited and flock behaviour changed, which was an average of 5.75 days.

## Sheep Preference Ranking

W= Willow P= Poplar



## RESULTS

When looking at the preferences, the varieties with similar genetics tend to be grouped together:

- Charlie and Pseudo = Salix alba
- India and SV1 = Salix dasyclados
- NM-1 and NM-6 = Populus nigra
- Brooks #1, Green Giant, DN-136, and DN-34 = Populus deltoides

In addition, the trees with Populus deltoides genetics were much slower to grow back after being browsed.



Author:  
Mikala Parr

For more info:  
Christine O'Reilly  
Research Technician  
coreilly@ssmic.com  
705-942-7927 x3147