

Norway



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FACTS AND FIGURES

Definitions

Coppice

Styving, Lauving

Legal Framework

Standard coppice does not exist in Norway as the Norwegian forestry sector is essentially dominated by conifers. On the other hand deciduous trees represent a very important part of the cultural heritage and the biodiversity and they are regulated under the “Naturmangfoldloven” (Diversity Act). Nowadays, coppicing is still performed in several counties i.e. Akershus, Rogaland, Sogn og Fjordane and Nord-Trøndelag (see Map). This practice is maintained essentially to keep the historical value of this tradition and protect the biodiversity. Norwegian farmers can in fact apply for a specific subsidy, which amounts to about 50 Euros/tree from the Regional Environmental Program for Agriculture (RMP) for keeping and managing as coppice the deciduous trees on their properties. The legal framework applies therefore to the procedure for registering the trees and obtaining the subsidies.

Typology

Simple coppice	Practised still in some areas as a cultural heritage. In the past bark was also harvested for tanning.
Coppice with standards	Not practised
Pollarding	Practised still in some areas as a cultural heritage for pastures or boundaries.
Short rotation coppice	Not practised

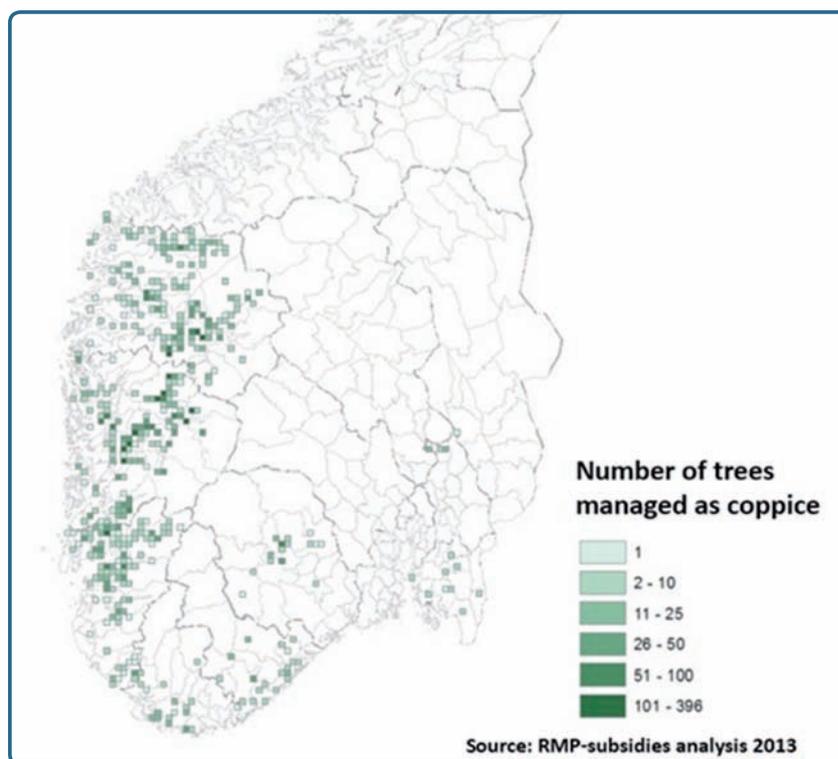
Images



Coppice managed tree: 1989 (left) and 2009 (right);
Photo by Leif Hauge and Oskar Puschmann;
Location: Arnafjord, Vik Sogn og Fjordane Norway



Year 1903; Photo taken by Anders Beer Wilse; copy of the original belonging to Norsk Folkemuseum, Hardanger, Hordaland, Norway



Number of trees managed as coppice in Norway, 2013

DESCRIPTION

Standard coppice does not exist in Norway as the Norwegian forestry sector is essentially dominated by conifers, although, on the other hand, deciduous trees represent a very important part of the culture and a substrate for biodiversity.

Coppicing in Norway is a traditional farming practice, which was extensively used in the West Coast area. This type of practice was relevant to slightly beyond the 1900s, nowadays it is still minimally used for feeding goats.

Using this old traditional technique, farmers cut the main branches of the trees to form several shoots, this increasing the production of leaves used for feeding sheep and goat in winter and supplementing their diet.

To prevent grazing animals the cutting was performed up to two or three meters from the ground (see Images; left).

The most common types of wood were ash, linden, elm, rowan and birch. Not all had equally good nutritive value or tasted as good as the other.

The harvest in western farms was frequently executed in spring before the leaves started to grow larger. The branches were cut down and either left on site, stored or given directly to the animals. Elm and ash represented the best fodder. Leaves and thin branches were therefore cut and dried. The good quality fodder “Godlauv” from elm and ash was bundled, transported and dried on the farm ground (see Images; right).

The other types were instead dried in outlying areas bundled and hung up on the trees.

Once dried, the bundles were either put in stacks or stored in an outer storage until they were fetched home during winter.

In many localities, linden production was commonly used for the production of ropes and binding cords while other species were more commonly used as fences and along streams.

Nowadays coppicing is still performed in several counties, i.e. Akershus, Rogaland, Sogn og Fjordane and Nord-Trøndelag (see Map).

This practice is maintained essentially to keep the historical value of this tradition and protect the biodiversity.

Norwegian farmers can in fact apply for a specific subsidy, which amount at about 50 Euros/tree from the Regional Environmental Program for Agriculture (RMP) for keeping and managing as coppice the deciduous trees on their properties.

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