

Regulation of Flowering in Poplar

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The control of flowering is of great scientific and commercial importance in trees. We have already identified the *FLOWERING LOCUS T2* gene that involves in “first-time” and “seasonal” flowering in poplar (*Populus* spp.). To elucidate the flower initiation networks and pathways in poplar at the molecular level, we have taken functional and comparative genomics approaches that include physiological and genetic manipulations and high throughput platforms coupled with bioinformatics to identify genes and determine their expression patterns. We will present our recent findings and discuss their implications to tree improvement.

