

In the Viseu river valley

Shredded *Alnus* were seen and also *Salix* pollards. Two lines of older *Salix* looked as one branch had been left on each.

A line of *Salix* pollards here were being cut by a man. We stopped to watch but he spoke no French and soon got shy and stopped. He was cutting the trees with an axe. The work did not look very careful and he was just cutting where he could and not worrying if it took several cuts to remove a branch. He was standing in the trees, which were quite low pollards, and was cutting the whole line on the same day.



Salix pollards cut while we watched

Prahova County, Wallachia (north of Bucharest)

Brebu (on the maps as Brebu Mânăstirei)

Conversation with Adrian Ungureanu from Agrotour (and local forester) about pollarding in Romania.

He told us that there is no special name for a pollard in Romanian. Trees cut along the streets and *Salix* pollards would be termed fasonare. Branches from the *Salix* pollards could be used to make baskets and the trees cut repeatedly. The leaves might be given to animals especially goats.

Adrian denied that pollards were cut from other trees than *Salix* and trees along the streets. He told us that *Fagus* wood was generally used as firewood. We asked about shreds and he said that trees were only cut as shreds to remove the lower dead branches or to let light in.

Despite this conversation we clearly did see pollards and shredded trees that were cut for wood and leaf products.

Prahova County, Road to Talea

The village of Talea on the road to Breaza runs at an altitude of about 700m from east to west so slopes are north and south facing. There were *Fagus* pollards on the south facing slope. The land is probably communal village land.

Fagus and *Salix* were both pollarded and there was also *Corylus avellana*. The trees were growing in a mosaic of pasture with hay cut from small areas in between the pasture. The hay cut areas were species rich with yellow rattle (*Rhinanthus minor*), betony (*Stachys officinalis*), *Arnica* etc. There was also Chicory along roadsides (*Cichorium intybus*). The houses had their own small fenced gardens where vegetables were grown and also fruit trees. Some gardens had pollarded trees in, especially round the edges.



General views of the Talea valley (left) Sheep flock grazing (right)



Description of tree pollard management

***Salix* pollards**

There were three different species of *Salix* seen as pollards. One pollarded tree was within the pasture, the others round the edges. The *Salix* looked as if they had had all their branches removed 2 or 3 times. The larger branches had been removed with a saw, the smaller with axe/billhook.



***Salix* pollards on the edge of the pasture**



***Fagus* pollards**

In one small area a few *Fagus* ‘pollards’ stood amongst pasture. Some looked as if they had had branches cut from them recently. The cuts were not very tidy, some seemed cut with a saw and some with an axe or similar. One of the trees seemed to have had branches removed from higher up in the crown.

The trees stood in pasture grazed by cattle watched over by a cow herd. He spoke some French so we established that the *Fagus* was cut for fuel (and conifers for

construction). I tried to ask when the *Fagus* pollards were cut i.e. winter or summer and he implied that they could be cut all year round, or any time.



Left: *Fagus* that was probably pollarded once and has then grown out, then two big branches had been removed about 20 years ago, one calloused over and the other did not. Four or more smaller branches were also cut. The cuts were made with a chainsaw. Regrowth had only occurred from two of the smaller cuts.



Right: *Fagus* similar to the above but with no signs of recent cutting.



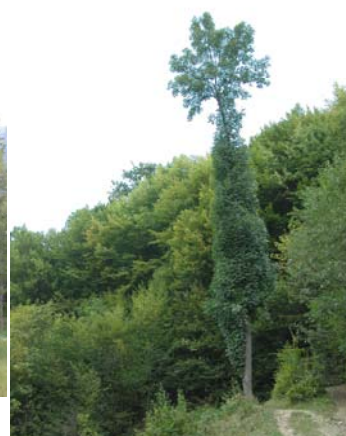
***Fagus* with 3 branches cut this year, 2 sawn and one hacked. Whole tree (far left) and close up of cuts.**

Some similar cutting had taken place previously and there was some regrowth from round the cuts.

In this area we could also see beech shreds but they were difficult to see as they were in the back gardens of houses! Closer to Talea village there were also many shredded *Fraxinus* trees, presumably for the leaves. There were lots of trees in the landscape, all with clear browse lines, many looked from a distance like pollards, but were not.



Shredded *Carpinus* tree (left) and *Fraxinus* (above & right) nearer to Talea village



Description of the pasture/hay meadows

The pastures contained a few bushes and trees including hazel. It looked as if there were a few permanent fences, including some corals for the animals at night. The animals could wander across the whole area but the herdsman presumably kept them from grazing the hay crops.

The haystacks were mostly still in place, a couple had been removed (some stacks are left out through the winter). Hazel leaves were placed in a layer under the haystacks and a few branches put on top. The haystacks here were a single pole (probably with cross pieces) made of beech. There were chips of wood from shaping the beech pole or other poles just left on the ground. Odd branches of hazel were also just left on the ground.



**Hay making (left)
A hay stack (below left)
Corylus leaves placed under a
hay stack that has since been
removed (below right)**



The land is all used but not as intensively as in the Mediterranean

area and does not look as overgrazed. There were some prickly plants such as *Eryngium* and *Carlina* and some distasteful like *Euphorbia* but they were not an overwhelming part of the population. Does hay cutting stop the dominance of such plants? Do the places where the hay is cut vary from year to year or stay the same?



Typical ground flora in the pasture areas (left)

The varied working landscape with large areas of pasture was very diverse in structure and contained occasional trees and groups of trees, worked for their products.

Transylvania – Working trees in the landscape

Road from Alba Iulia to Albac via Abrud - Metes

Some recently (summer 2003) cut *Fraxinus* shreds were seen. Long stubs of some lower branches had been left on the previous time of cutting and these were left on again this time. The trees were cut with an axe or other edged tool.



Freshly cut *Fraxinus* shreds (left) and close up (right)



Another group of shredded *Fraxinus* (left) and close up (right)



A group of *Salix* had just been cut (with an axe) and the branches were propped up to dry. There were several different sizes of branches stacked in different heaps. Even small twiggy bits were stashed in the top of a cut pollard.



Freshly cut *Salix* pollards (above left)
Salix pollard with small twigs on the bolling to dry (above right)

The leaves were left on the branches and stacked to dry leaning against some of the trees (below left)

A close up showing the pole laid between the trees and used to lean the branches on (below right)

