

Supplemental Information

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SI Materials and Methods

Plant Material and Growth. Unrooted dormant stem cuttings of three hybrid *Populus* hybrid clones—DN34 [*Populus* × *canadensis* Moench var. *eugenei* (*P. deltoides* × *P. nigra*)], Walker [*P. deltoides* var. *occidentalis* × (*P. laurifolia* × *P. nigra*)], and Okanese [Walker × (*P. laurifolia* × *P. nigra*)] were each obtained from nurseries in two different Canadian provinces in Spring 2007 for a total of six hybrid clone populations of approximately 50 individuals each. Okanese and Walker were each sourced from AB (Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries) and SK (Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Agri-Environment Services Branch, Agroforestry Development Centre, Indian Head, SK; latitude 50° 32'N, longitude 104° 32'W). DN34 was obtained from MB (L.A. Quality Products) and SK.

Plants were grown and maintained in a climate-controlled growth chamber. Cuttings were imbibed in tap water in the dark for 48 h and planted in tall opaque pots (1 m length, 10 cm diameter) containing Sunshine Mix 1 (Sun Gro Horticulture) in a climate-controlled growth chamber with artificial canopy lights maintained between 200 and 400 $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ on a 16-h photoperiod. The temperature of the chamber ranged from a day high of 22 °C and a night low of 17 °C, with humidity maintained at 55% to 65%. The cuttings were sprinkled with water daily until leaves emerged and later every 2 to 3 d after growth was established. Plants were fertilized (20:20:20 N-P-K; 1.5 g L⁻¹) at a rate of 600 mL per plant every 2 wk, and were last fertilized 1 wk before the water-withholding experiment. Pots were randomly rotated within and between canopies every 5 to 7 d.

Water-Withholding Experiment. Rooted cuttings were grown without water limitation for a minimum of 9 wk. Population height was used as a physical measure of developmental stage, and the water-withholding experiment was undertaken when each hybrid population was, on average, between 60 and 70 cm high. One half of each population was grown without further input of water, and the other half was well watered.

For each hybrid population, the onset of a physiological response to water deficit was monitored daily using an IR gas analyzer (LI-6400XT Portable Photosynthesis System; LI-COR Biosciences). Conductance measurements were made on the first fully expanded leaf 6 to 7 h (midday) after experimental dawn. A statistically significant difference in leaf stomatal conductance in water-deficient plants, for two consecutive days at midday, compared with well-watered plants, was used as an indicator of water stress ($n = 5\text{--}6$ per treatment, Welch unpaired *t* test, $P < 0.05$). On the third day, the first fully expanded leaf was harvested from three trees in each population—well watered and water-deficient—at two time points: predawn (1 h before lights were turned on) and midday (middle of the light period). The leaves were pooled and flash-frozen in liquid nitrogen. This was repeated three times, such that there were three biological replicate samples collected for each treatment at each time point, for each hybrid clone population. Leaves were harvested from the Okanese populations from AB and SK 13 d after the start of the water-limitation experiment. Leaf samples from the Walker populations from AB and SK were collected after 13 and 11 d, respectively. Leaf samples from the hybrid DN34 populations from MB and SK were collected after 11 and 13 d, respectively.

Transcript Abundance Analysis by Microarray. Frozen plant material was finely ground in liquid nitrogen, and total RNA was extracted as previously described (1). RNA quality was determined spec-

trometrically and electrophoretically. For each sample, 5 μg of total RNA was reverse-transcribed, labeled, and hybridized to the Poplar Genome Array according to manufacturer's protocols (Affymetrix) at the Centre for Applied Genome Evolution and Function at the University of Toronto. The Poplar Genome Array includes 61,251 probe sets representing more than 56,055 transcripts (Affymetrix). The GeneChip probe design is based on the Joint Genome Institute's *P. trichocarpa* genome project's predicted gene set v1.1 and all publicly available EST and mRNA sequences for all *Populus* species available through UniGene Build number 6 and GenBank. The array queries transcripts derived from 13 *Populus* species in addition to the fully sequenced *P. trichocarpa* genome.

The analysis of GeneChip data were conducted using the BioConductor suite of packages (2) in the R statistical programming language (3) by using the affy package (4). All 72 arrays were preprocessed together by using Microarray Suite version 5 (MAS5; Affymetrix) or GC-Robust Multiarray Analysis (gcrma) (5).

The transcript abundance analyses were conducted independently for each hybrid. The microarray study was analyzed as a $2 \times 2 \times 2$ factorial complete randomized ANOVA design (two locations, two time points, two treatments) by using the LIMMA package (2) and a BH (6) false discovery rate-adjusted *P* value of 0.05. LIMMA fits a linear model to the data based on a user-defined experimental design matrix that corresponds to the RNA targets that have been hybridized on the arrays. A contrast matrix is then designed, which allows the coefficients defined by the design matrix to be combined into contrasts of interest. The linear model was parameterized by group means with a manually defined sum-to-zero contrast matrix to test for main effects and interaction effects by the process described by Wilkins et al. (7). This approach greatly simplifies the analysis of complex comparisons within the framework of a balanced factorial design.

Clustering Poplar Transcriptomes. PCC heat maps of whole-transcriptome profiles of were constructed for Okanese, Walker, and DN34 sourced from different locations (Fig. 2). All arrays were mas5-normalized and filtered. Heat maps included 19,720 probe sets that passed through the initial filter step (present calls in a minimum of 45 of 72 arrays; resultant expression measures were log₂-transformed). All samples were clustered in the same order on both axes. The PCC was determined for each pair of samples within a hybrid. Samples were indicated by time of sample collection, location of origin, and water status.

Heat Maps of Treatment and Treatment:Location Interaction Effects Following Transcriptome Analyses. Heat maps were generated representing the relative abundance of drought-responsive transcripts in the three hybrid *Populus* clones obtained from two locations at predawn and midday time points (Fig. 3). Arrays were preprocessed using mas5 (present calls in a minimum of 45 of 72 arrays; resultant expression measures were log₂-transformed). The number of probe sets indicated to the side of the heat map correspond to transcripts with significant treatment main effects only (BH-adjusted $P < 0.05$) and to transcripts with significant treatment:location interactions (BH-adjusted $P < 0.05$) at the specified time point. Each column represents a discrete biological sample, and all treatments are presented as biological triplicate replicates.

qRT-PCR. Six genes were selected for qRT-PCR validation. For each gene, the expression was analyzed in samples from the poplar hybrid genotypes Okanese, Walker, and DN34 from two different geographic locations and two different treatments each at predawn time point. The genes were chosen to represent a variety of different drought response patterns. Total RNA was prepared as described in the main text, and 3 μ g of RNA were reverse-transcribed by using oligo(dT)18 primers and SuperScript II Reverse Transcriptase (Invitrogen) according to the manufacturer's instructions. qRT-PCR was performed by using iQ SYBR Green Supermix and the iCycler iQ real-time PCR detection system (Bio-Rad). For each condition, this was repeated for three biological replicates. The relative transcript abundance was determined based on the Pfaffl method (8, 9). Data were normalized to *ACTIN-7*. Where possible, primer sets were designed to span an intron to prevent amplification of genomic DNA. Melt-curve analysis was performed following amplification to confirm specificity of the amplification reaction. Sequences of primers used for qRT-PCR are given in Table S3.

Microsatellite Genotyping. The genetic identity of hybrid poplar clones from each location, as well as genetic identity of ramets of the same genotype obtained from different nurseries, was confirmed by genotyping the clones using previously characterized microsatellite markers [PMGC markers: International Populus Genome Consortium, SSR Resource (http://www.ornl.gov/sci/ipgc/ssr_resource.htm), ORPM markers (10), Table S4]. Markers were initially selected on the basis of coverage of each linkage group, and that they were known to map to multiple poplar species. Each of the nine markers were amplified by using DNA that was extracted from three to six plants per hybrid population from each location according to Doyle and Doyle (11). The reverse primer for each marker was labeled with 6-carboxy-fluorescein, and a 5' GTTTCTT sequence tail was added to the unlabeled primer to help with amplification and reduce stuttering. Amplified fragments were analyzed by using the ABI3730XL capillary sequencer (Applied Biosystems), and the results were supplied by the

Centre for Applied Genomics at the Hospital for Sick Children (Toronto, ON, Canada).

Sequencing of Noncoding Regions. Promoter and noncoding regions for two unlinked nuclear loci, POPTR_0003s11430 (S8) and POPTR_0012s13180 (RD), were selected to study potentially highly variable regions and to assess the influence of location on sequence diversity. Three *Populus* hybrid genotypes (DN34, Walker, Okanese) from two different locations each were analyzed. Three individuals were used for each genotype and location. PCR primers were designed by using *P. trichocarpa* sequence information. PCR was performed on genomic DNA with the following primers: S8 forward, 5' GTGCTTTTAGTTTTGGCTCAAG 3'; S8 reverse, 5' GCTATACGAGAAACAACCAAATC 3'; RD forward, 5' CCCCCAACCAAAAACGGAAGCAGC 3'; and RD reverse, 5' GCATGATCTTTACAAGAACATTGC 3'. PCR fragments were cloned by using the pGEM-T Cloning kit (Promega), and at least six plasmids per location and genotype were sequenced individually. Sequence analysis yielded alignments of 615- and 1,018-bp length that were edited for rare PCR errors and assessed for allelic polymorphisms.

Global Methylation Analysis. Genomic DNA was extracted by using the DNeasy Plant Mini Kit (Qiagen), enzymatically hydrolyzed into nucleosides, and analyzed by isocratic cation-exchange HPLC as described previously (12) by using a Zorbax SCX column (300 \times 4.6 mm, 5 μ m; Agilent) with a 1200 series instrument (Agilent). Commercial standards (Sigma-Aldrich) were used for peak identification. 5-Methyl-2'-deoxycytidine (5mC) values were calculated based on a calibration curve of known molar ratios of 5mC and 2'-deoxycytidine. Total DNA methylation (as percentage) was calculated as (5mC / (2'-deoxycytidine + 5mC)) \times 100. Foliar tissue samples used for total DNA methylation analysis were identical to the foliar samples collected for RNA isolation and microarray hybridization. The effect of the independent factors—treatment and location—were then analyzed by using a 2 \times 2 factorial ANOVA.

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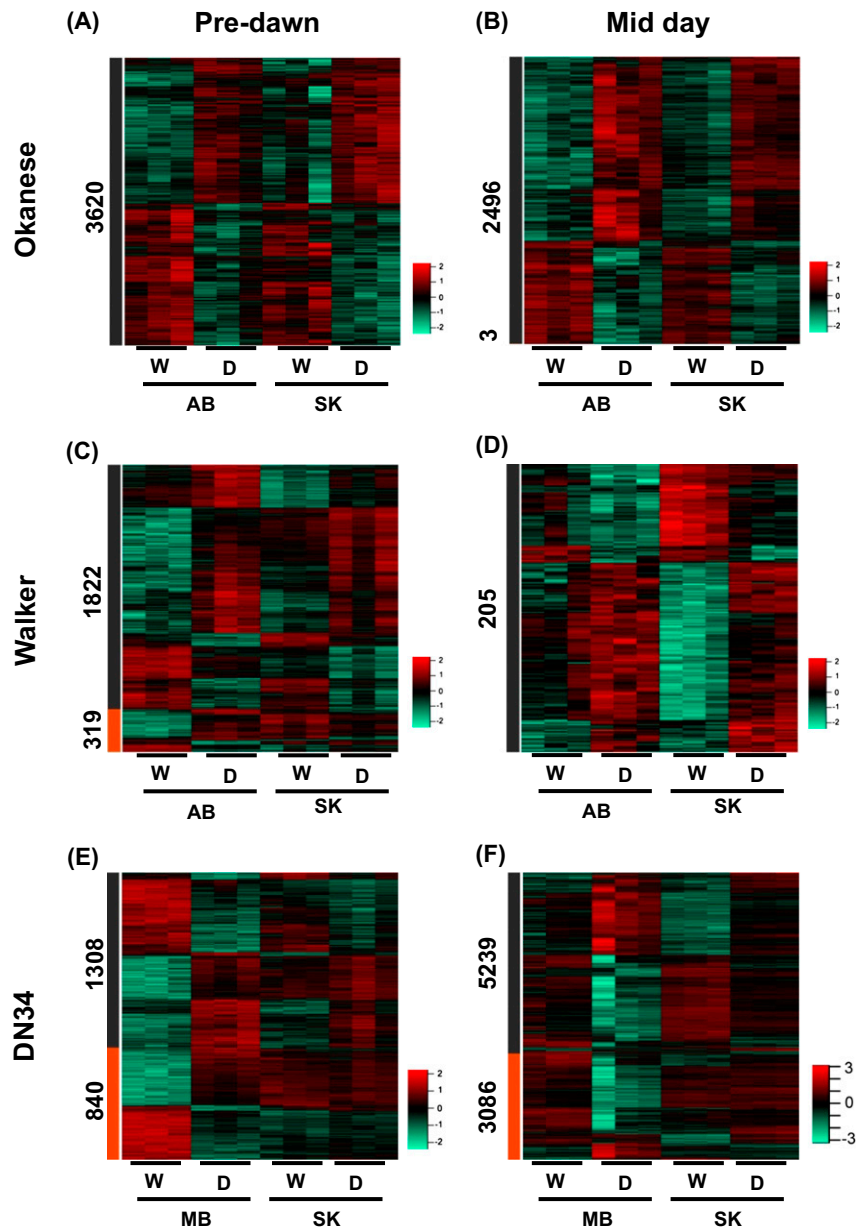


Fig. S3. Treatment and treatment:location interaction effects for each hybrid. Heat maps representing the relative abundance of drought responsive transcripts in the hybrid *Populus* clones (A and B) Okanese, (C and D) Walker, and (E and F) DN34 obtained from two locations at predawn (PD) and midday (MD) time points. All arrays were gcrma-normalized and filtered. The number of probe sets indicated to the side of the heat map correspond to transcripts with significant treatment main effects only (gray bar, BH-adjusted $P < 0.05$) and to transcripts with significant treatment:location interactions (orange bar, BH-adjusted $P < 0.05$) at the specified time point. Each column represents a discrete biological sample, and all treatments are presented as biological triplicate replicates. Red indicates higher, and green indicates lower, levels of transcript abundance. Expression levels are row-normalized. W, well watered samples; D, water-deficient samples.

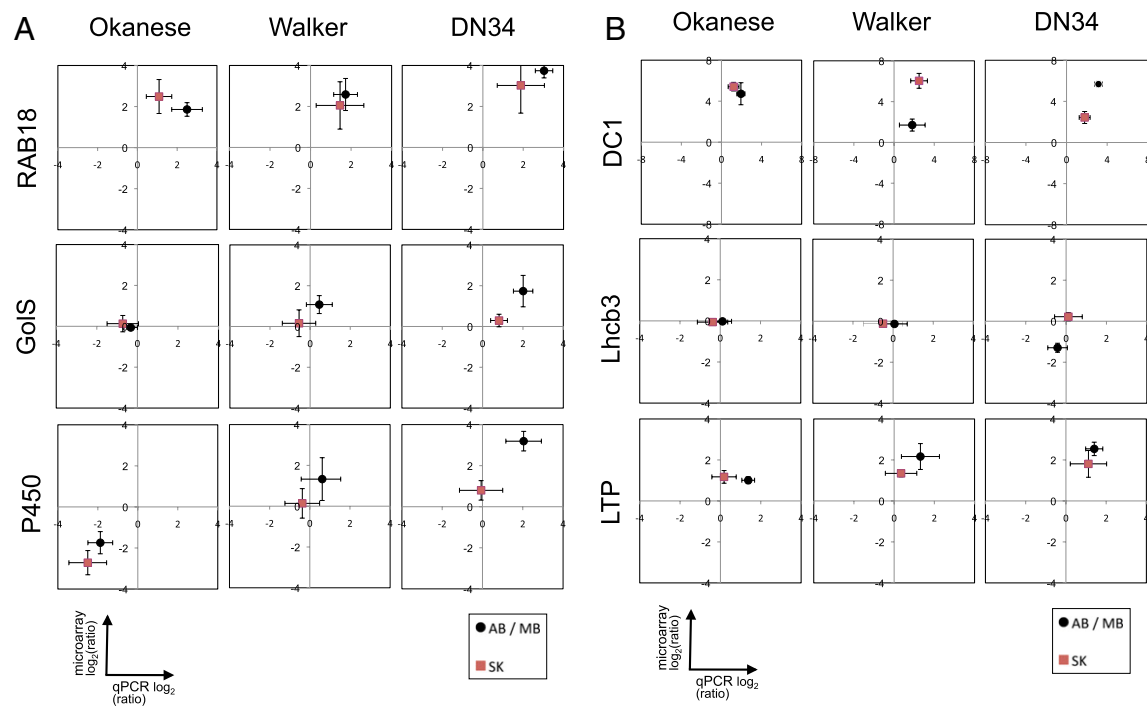


Fig. S4. qRT-PCR validation of transcript accumulation patterns at predawn. \log_2 ratio of the transcript accumulation under well watered conditions relative water-limited conditions as determined by microarray (y axis) and by qRT-PCR (x axis; $n = 3$; \pm SE). Primer sequences are shown in [Table S3](#).

quence from the database (*P. trichocarpa* genome v2.2). (B) Polymorphic sites for promoter and noncoding regions of the locus POPTR_0012s13180 in the *Populus* hybrid genotypes. Sequences of the three hybrid genotypes DN34, Walker, and Okanese from two different geographic locations each are shown. The top line indicates the location of the substitution within the sequence (P, promoter; 5', 5' UTR). Positions of polymorphic sites within the alignment are indicated in the next line. Indels are shown as "i" (insertion relative to first sequence) or "d" (deletion relative to first sequence), with the number of base pairs given. A short stretch of 29 bp that was difficult to align was excluded from the alignment. Sequence variants at indel sites are represented by v1 (variant 1) and v2 (variant 2). *Fixed polymorphism in the genotypes Okanese, Walker, and DN34 relative to the reference sequence from the database (*P. trichocarpa* genome v2.2).

Table S1. Genotypes and clone age

Genotype	Propagation since
DN34	Early 1900s
Walker	1946
Okanese	1986

Table S2. Location of nursery sites used to obtain hybrid poplar cuttings and climate variables

Nursery location	Latitude (N)	Longitude (W)	Elevation (m)	Mean annual temperature, °C	Mean annual precipitation, mm	Days >5 °C
Boyle, AB	54° 53'	112° 51'	572	2.2	480	1,646
Indian Head, SK	50° 32'	104° 32'	585	3	398	1,725
Portage la Prairie, MB	49° 57'	98° 16'	259	3	525	1,883

Location details and historic climatic variables adjusted for specific location and elevation using the Climate PP model described previously (1).

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Table S3. Primer sequences used for qRT-PCR validation of microarray data

Name	Locus	Primer Sequence (5' → 3')
<i>RAB18</i>	POPTR_0003s13850	TGGAAGCACTAATGGCATGAC, TTCTTGCCTCACCTCTCTTG
<i>GOLS</i>	POPTR_0008s02620	GTGGTGATTTGAATGCGAGTG, CTGCGAGTTCTTTGACGAT
<i>P450</i>	POPTR_0003s06460	CATTTTCACAGGACTTGATTGC, TCTGAAATCCCCATTCCACG
<i>DC1</i>	POPTR_0002s01870	GAAATGGAAGAGAAGGAGAAGC, CTACCAACGAGGCAACAGGC
<i>Lhcb3</i>	POPTR_0001s41780, POPTR_0011s12680	CTCTTAGAGATGTTGTCTCCA, ATTCTCCAGTCAGGTATGAAG
<i>LTP</i>	POPTR_0016s10140	GAAGCAGCACAAAGATGAGAAAGC, CACTGGACGTTGGCAATGTTG

