

US Woody Crop Yield Potential Database Documentation with Referenced Yield Summary Tables

October 25, 2013

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Environmental Sciences Division

**US WOODY CROP YIELD POTENTIAL DATABASE
DOCUMENTATION WITH REFERENCED YIELD
SUMMARY TABLES**

Lynn Wright

October 25, 2013

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The author wishes to thank the managers and staff of Oak Ridge National Laboratory's Environmental Sciences Division for facilitating the continuation of my work on summarizing woody crop yield data that began in 1982 when I first joined the Short Rotation Woody Crops Program (later a part of the Biofuels Feedstock Development Program) as a subcontract manager for woody crops research. Many Environmental Sciences Division staff contributed to managing woody crop research and to collecting and maintaining the woody crop feedstock reference collections that made development of the Woody Crop Yield Potential (WCYP) database possible.

The author wishes to thank many researchers and students from many different academic, industrial and U.S. Forest Service institutions who have participated in research on short-rotation woody crops over the past 40 years and particularly those that have published their data on biomass dry weight yields in the form of growth curves or tables of annual growth. It is hoped that those efforts will continue well into the future so that a much larger database of information on woody crop yields can be assembled and made publically available.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A woody crop yield potential (WCYP) database was created containing yield results with as much associated information as was available concerning the sites, soils, and experimental treatments.

The database summarizes a very broad set of old and new standing biomass data from plantation-grown hardwoods and softwoods established under a wide range of conditions across the United States and Canada. The WCYP database, together with this document, is being published to disseminate information on what is available in the literature with respect to yield evaluations and to inform people that not all yield data in the open literature are suitable for evaluation of “potential” regional yields. It has also been presented with the hope that much more information will be collected and added to the WCYP database.

The current set of data in the WCYP database is derived from 41 unique reference sources describing 79 experiments in the United States or southern Canada with a total of 473 different treatments. The database contains several worksheets. The worksheet that reports the complete yield curves contains roughly 1,660 rows of data and 81 columns of parameters reporting yields and associated treatment factors. Separate worksheets, linked by the source publication author and year, describe the sites and soils associated with each experiment; another separate worksheet assembles only the final yields deemed appropriate for yield potential analysis. There are additional worksheets with conversion factors relevant to the database and notes pertaining to decisions made regarding organization of the data. This technical manuscript describes how the information was assembled to create the WCYP database that is simultaneously being published on the US Department of Energy (DOE) Bioenergy Knowledge Discovery Framework website maintained by Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL). A summary table with links to all worksheets in the database can be found at the web address <https://www.bioenergykdf.net/WCYP>.

Of the 473 experimental treatments included in the 79 experiments described in the WCYP database, documentation for only about 170 of the treatments provided sufficient growth pattern information for verifying that the measurements had included yield data deemed to be at or near the age of maximum mean annual increment (MAI_{max}). Thus only 36% of the treatments in the studies on woody crop growth curves were followed long enough to actually obtain the maximum average yield obtainable with the specific treatment. This is to be expected because once the maximum yields of the best treatment options are identified in an experiment, there is marginal value in continuing to measure the less than optimal treatment conditions of that experiment.

Fourteen of the reference sources used for development of the WCYP database did not report sufficient growth pattern information to verify the point of MAI_{max} in any of the treatments evaluated. The yield results from the incomplete studies were nevertheless included for one or more of the following reasons: (1) the results provided useful or interesting site or treatment comparisons, (2) the authors (of the data sources) believed the stands were at an appropriate harvest age for the chosen planting density, or (3) the experiments are continuing and additional data may become available.

Of the 170 treatments verified to be at or near MAI_{max} , only 101 were considered useful for evaluating yield potential as some of the treatments were controls or low culture intensity treatments that did not produce high yields. However, some reported mean annual increment values, while not verifiable based on growth curves, were sufficiently high to be considered of value in assessing yield potential. Thus the final conclusion was that 123 yield values (rows in the database) were of value for use in woody crop yield potential studies. This provides relatively few data points for performing the types of statistical analyses that have been done for switchgrass.

Nearly all data sets included in the database, many of which resulted from DOE Biomass Program funding, were found in publically available information sources. The majority of those were peer-reviewed literature sources. In some cases, non-peer-reviewed proceedings, papers, presentations, and student theses or dissertations also served as sources of yield data and as sources for some of the experimental details associated with the yield data. While electronically available, such sources cannot be easily found without intense and very specific searches on the Internet. In some cases, use of multiple papers from the same research institution were required to obtain the desired level of detail on the experimental sites and methods. In a few cases, some experimental details were not found in public reports but were gleaned from the collection of unpublished biomass research subcontractor reports housed at ORNL. To the extent possible, those sources are being digitized and made available through ORNL websites.

This publication also includes tables with selected yield values from the database as a means of providing a condensed summary of a large portion of the database. The tables purposely show high, medium, and low mean annual yields of hardwoods within four regions of the United States (the Northeast, Southeast, North Central/Midwest, and Pacific Northwest) and pine yields in the Southeast, using culture intensity as the grouping factor. The Southeast pine yields were included because the amount of information on Southeast hardwoods is limited and pines are an important biomass resource in the Southeast.

No effort was made in this publication to present any statistical analysis of the yield data as a function of culture intensity or region because it was determined that the data were too limited for useful statistical analysis. The tables do show, however, that yields can sometimes be very high ($> 20 \text{ Mg ha}^{-1} \text{ yr}^{-1}$) under high intensity cultural treatments or when selected clones are matched to good site conditions. While we cannot yet adequately predict potential yield level averages across the United States, it is the belief of this author that with careful selection of clones or varieties and appropriate management practices, yields of at least $15 \text{ Mg ha}^{-1} \text{ yr}^{-1}$ can be obtained with woody crops in most crop growing regions of the United States.

1. INTRODUCTION

To document the basis for the biomass yield assumptions being used in biomass resource analysis studies, an effort was initiated to identify sources of information on woody crop yields and to create a woody crop yield potential (WCYP) database that can be used by others to conduct further analysis on woody crop yields in the United States and Canada. The primary goal was to identify which data from the many publications available on woody crops accurately represent the yield potential of woody crop stands. The yield potential is not derived from an average of existing experimental and commercial stand yields, but rather focuses on finding those situations where genotypes and cultural treatments have come close to being optimized for sites and climates and where the stand has been grown to optimal harvest age (generally identified as the year when the mean value of annual growth is maximized). This is needed to facilitate yield mapping activities and comparisons on a dry-weight basis with yields of annual and perennial herbaceous crops that are harvested annually. Thus a literature search was initiated to find such data and incorporate it into a WCYP database. This database differs from a summary of all yields from all experimental trials since experimental trials that clearly did not use good silvicultural practices or clones that did not meet at least average expectations were excluded.

The task of finding woody crop mean annual yield data at or near the age of optimal harvest in the United States proved to be challenging even though a large amount of research has been performed in the United States on woody crops. A similar effort to collect data on perennial grasses provided much more data. The reason is that each year of growth of a perennial grass (beyond the first year or two of establishment) provides a data point on harvested yields that can be useful for evaluation of biomass resources, whereas with woody crops grown for multiple years, only the annualized yield at the expected harvest age or yield at the point of the stand's biological maximum mean annual increment (MAI_{max}) are useful data points for comparison with annually harvested biomass crops. The expected harvest age (usually based on economic analysis) and the biological maximum growth rate of woody crop stands are often the same, but may differ under various economic assumptions. Thus this analysis is limited to identifying the biological MAI_{max} .

While silvicultural studies that compare the effects of cultural treatments and genotypes on productivity at a given site are not uncommon, continued measurement of the experimental stands past the point of MAI_{max} are relatively rare due both to funding constraints and lack of interest once the relative effects of treatments on productivity rates are identified. For example, a 2008 effort to identify publications within the previous 10 years on poplar and willow growth, production, and biomass yield generated 67 papers worldwide with experimental results documenting some type of incremental growth data (height; diameter; basal area; stem biomass; or, preferably, total aboveground biomass, expressed as tons per acre or megagrams per hectare). Only 42 of the experiments described were conducted in the United States or Canada, and only 21 of those provided enough detail to calculate either cumulative, mean annual, or incremental annual total aboveground growth over several years of growth. Of the studies with adequate detail, only 11 provided data that met the goal of reporting woody crop yields in a way that verified the yields were at or near MAI_{max} . The yield database was enlarged by broadening the search of published literature to include a broader range of species and a longer time period and by including unpublished reports and presentations collected by staff at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL).

Additional objectives of this database project were (1) to find and document the highest reported yields of any woody crop species considered suitable for bioenergy production whether or not the yield curves could be verified to have achieved MAI_{max} and (2) to include data from all major regions of the United States and from all woody species that have received attention as potential bioenergy crops.

The focus of this document is to describe how the WCYP database was created and the type and range of data included in the database. Several tables with yield data are included in this paper, not for the purpose

of comprehensive analysis, but rather to demonstrate potential insights that can be gleaned from a study of the WCYP database. The tables include information on key factors affecting the average annual yield and economics of growing woody crops for energy. The tables do not attempt to include all of the values in the WCYP database that are considered useful for evaluating woody crop yield potential or for assessing the effects of treatment factors. The tables do provide insight to the type of information available in the WCYP database. The complete WCYP database can be viewed or downloaded from the US Department of Energy (DOE) Bioenergy Knowledge Discovery Framework website maintained by ORNL by navigating to the web address <https://www.bioenergykdf.net/WCYP> .

2. DATABASE CREATION AND NOTATION

2.1 IDENTIFICATION OF DATA SOURCES

The project documented in this report began in 2008 when online search engines were used to identify recent papers (defined as those published after about 1998) using the search terms “poplar” or “willow” together with “growth,” “production,” or “yield.” As mentioned previously, that process resulted in many papers being identified but only 11 publications with sufficient information for building the woody crops maximum yield database. Expansion of the online search to include the general terms “woody crops” and “biomass yields,” without limiting the species, identified several recently published papers on intensive culture experiments on southern pines, sweetgum, eucalyptus, and sycamore in the Southeast. Inclusion of the southeastern silvicultural research on pines and hardwoods greatly increased the value of the WCYP database by allowing inclusion of a wider range of locations and site types. The literature search was further expanded to an internal bibliographic database (and associated physical library) originally created by the ORNL Biomass Feedstock Development Program that included older published papers, conference proceedings, web-available presentations, and subcontractor reports to the DOE Biomass Program managed at ORNL.

The preferred information sources (whether recent or older) were those that reported total aboveground biomass results in tables or graphs on an annual basis for each experimental condition. Publications that provided good information on the site and experimental conditions were greatly preferred. When necessary, multiple sources of information (including calls to authors and unpublished information) were used to make the supporting information as complete as possible. A few publications that provided excellent descriptions of the experimental conditions but only provided yield data from the final year of observation of the tree stands were included (as long as that final year was believed to represent a reasonable harvest age). While data presented in tables was most easily accessible, data provided in the form of graphs was translated to numbers by using a plot digitizer. For very high density single stem or multi-stemmed “coppiced” stands (e.g. 10,000 to 400,000 stems per hectare), a minimum of 3 years of annual growth results (annual harvests or estimates of cumulative, incremental, or mean growth) were required for consideration for inclusion in the data set. The adequate number of years of observation varied between 4 and 12 years as planting density (or coppice stem density) decreased from 10,000 to less than 1,000 trees or stems per hectare.

2.2 DATA PARAMETERS INCLUDED

The first step in creating the WCYP database was the capture of the reported values and formats of the biomass yield data in a raw data excel spreadsheet that contained both metric and English units (appropriately identified with notes). Some form of aboveground yield information (as cumulative, incremental, or average biomass yields expressed as either green or dry weights) was necessary for inclusion of a given data set in the WCYP database. As long as one of the three growth parameters was reported, the others could be (and were) calculated. The originally reported numbers are shown in black text in the published WCYP database, whereas calculated values are shown in red text.

Publications reporting total aboveground dry weight data were preferred, but some excellent data sets were included that presented the yield data in terms of stem weights (generally inside bark weight). This type of data was deemed usable when the authors also provided some information on the allocation of weight among the stem, bark, branches, and foliage at several different ages. Publications that expressed growth patterns only in terms of the volume, basal diameter, breast height diameter, or height of the stem were not included in the published data set. However, information on heights, breast height diameter, basal diameters, basal areas, and other growth descriptors such as volume were included in the database when such information was provided in addition to aboveground weights. Standard errors of each

measure were also included if provided numerically. Standard error information was generally not available when growth values were generated from graphic presentations of yield data.

It is appropriate to explain why volume measures were not considered to be a sufficient information source for this database. Our review of the woody crop production literature determined that tree volume is often estimated based on easily measured predictors (such as diameter at breast height and height and their transformations). However, a 2002 paper by Zhang et al.¹ pointed out that such empirical relationships do not work equally well for volume prediction across regions or sites or between fertilized and non-fertilized treatments. Several earlier papers also identified regional differences in volume prediction equations. In particular, a 1986 conference paper² presented data showing that application of empirically based biomass equations (for hardwood species) developed in one southeastern region and applied to another southeastern region usually resulted in yield estimation errors. While the errors were typically in the 0 to 10% range, they could be as great as 15% to 25%. Alternative “mixed effect” models of volume based on taper were offered by Zhang et al. in 2002¹ as being more accurate for estimating volumes across regions and sites. However, their model testing indicated that when converting taper-based volume equations to weights, a high degree of accuracy depends on using density values that vary as a function of tree height and age. Rarely are stem wood density values as a function of tree age made available in the literature. Thus it was concluded that even when both volume and weight equations were appropriately developed for stands in one location, they could not be applied, with a high degree of confidence, across regions. Issues such as these led to restricting the final WCYP database sources to papers that published weights (either green or dry) rather than volumes.

About 80 columns were required in the spreadsheet to capture all available and desired information on experimental treatments and conditions including species/clone names, multiple ways of expressing yield, size of total experimental field and treatment plots, survival percentages, and all treatment variables (e.g., spacing, fertilization types and levels, and irrigation). Columns not originally envisioned such as stem weights and “expansion factors,” which applied to only a few of the information sources, were nevertheless added to the spreadsheet to allow appropriate calculation of total aboveground biomass yields as necessary.

The degree of completeness of information included in the WCYP database is highly variable, with many of the older sources of information being very incomplete but nevertheless included as points of reference. An attempt was made to fill all cells in the spreadsheets, either with reported or calculated values or with the number “-9999” to designate that the desired value had been searched for but was not found. In the case where an added column, such as expansion factors, clearly only applied to one or two information sources the cells were left blank in most rows.

2.3 STANDARDIZATION OF THE DATA

The second step in the WCYP database development involved the conversion of the raw data to similar units. Conversion of English units to metric units was needed for many database parameters. For key yield variables, both metric and English values were contained in the preliminary database but only metric values were retained for the publically available database. The conversion factors most often used are listed in Appendix A of this paper and included as a separate worksheet in the online WCYP database.

Application levels (pounds or kilograms) of a wide range of fertilizer types were converted to the amounts of the active ingredients nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), and potassium (K) added over the complete rotation to facilitate comparison of culture intensity levels. Appendix B focuses on how to translate the various fertilizer formulations used into mass weights of the elements N, P, and K.

All yield values in the WCYP database are expressed on a dry weight basis in metric units. It is common in the United States for forestry scientists to report biomass yields simply as “tons per acre,” assuming the target audience of US field research foresters and forest industry managers will know that “green tons” are implied and that usually only the stem weight is included. However, academic studies of crop yields for biomass energy nearly always report biomass yields on a dry weight basis and include all aboveground components. These two different reporting conventions created the potential for misinterpretation of yield data. Direct contact was made with investigators where there was any uncertainty about whether yields were reported as green or dry tons and whether total or partial aboveground weights were being reported.

One difficulty in yield comparisons is not adequately resolved in the WCYP database. That difficulty is that published pine and eucalyptus data generally include foliage in the estimation of total aboveground biomass yield, whereas nearly all hardwood data (other than the eucalyptus) are collected during the dormant season when leaves are not on the trees, so foliage is not included. Allometry data (percent weights of stems, branches, leaves, and sometimes bark and roots) were available in some publications for specific species and locations but not for all locations and species. Thus the decision was made to accept the total aboveground dry weight numbers as published, which meant including pine and eucalyptus foliage but not including the foliage for all other hardwood species. This difference is potentially valid in situations where pines and eucalyptus are taken to boilers or biorefineries with most leaves intact. The concern then is the possible underestimation of yield in the few cases where other hardwoods might also arrive at boilers or biorefineries with intact leaves.

Another small standardization issue concerns yield comparisons between trees “coppiced” after the establishment year to create a multi-stemmed plant versus trees harvested as single stems. In coppice plantings, the documentation of productivity over time almost always starts with the first year of coppice growth (second year after planting) in the source literature, and thus the same convention is followed in the WCYP database. In single stem plantations, the documentation of productivity begins with the first planting year. If yield comparisons are made as a function of growth years, the coppiced stand almost always appears to have a growth advantage. If yield comparisons between coppiced and single-stem tree plantings are made on the basis of MAI_{max} , the number of years is irrelevant. The WCYP database contains columns for both stem age and root age, so database users could choose to recalculate the time to achieving MAI_{max} in coppice stands based on root age rather than stem age if desired.

Both tree spacing (between and within row distances) and tree densities were included in the database. Most tree density numbers in the database are calculated based on the published tree spacing values. The calculation of density values was done with the intention of making it easy to find stands of equivalent density. However because the calculations were sometimes made starting from English units and sometimes made starting from reported metric units (which may or may not have been the actual planting units), it was found to be impossible to completely standardize across all experiments. This was especially true when the decision was made to use (from a few papers) the reported initial density values (that did not accurately reflect initial spacing descriptions) because of their prominent use in tables and graphics in the paper. The issues with standardizing tree density across experiments are explained in more detail in Appendix C. Nevertheless it is possible to sort the data based on tree density and thus identify experiments with roughly similar plant spacing.

Conversions not made included (1) conversion from bole volume to total aboveground biomass weights and (2) conversion of height and diameter data into biomass yield estimates. For either conversion, the potential for substantial error can be large unless appropriate equations can be found that have been developed for the same species, at a similar age, and within the same region.^{1,2}

When only stem or bole weight yields were reported, it was necessary to apply an expansion factor to estimate total aboveground biomass yield. This was only necessary for two of the experimental data sets collected on pines^{3,4} and from the eucalyptus growth models generated by Langholtz et al.⁵ In the case of the pine data, appropriate expansion factors could be calculated using the species- and location-specific allometry information on bole, bark, branch, and leaf weights available as a function of age.^{4,6} Notes with more detail are provided as part of the published database. In the case of the eucalyptus data, the conversion factor of 1.7 suggested by Langholtz et al.⁵ was confirmed by comparing the data with eucalyptus allometry data provided in another paper summarizing several eucalyptus studies.⁷

It is worth mentioning that the scientific literature dealing with carbon cycles and carbon sequestration has dealt extensively with “biomass expansion factors” (BEFs) and equations for converting estimated stem weights or volumes to total aboveground biomass, though mostly for mature trees in forest stands.⁸ The Allometric Biomass and Carbon Factors database⁹ and the Biomass Compartments Database¹⁰ were created with information relevant to the Eurasian region. Meta-analysis of information in those databases¹¹ provides insights on the effects of age, growing stock, and site index on BEFs. The database authors state that the ABC factors should be used with caution and only after understanding the source of the data and how the factors were defined by the original authors.⁸ Published allometry data on loblolly pines in the United States^{4,6} confirmed that the relationships between stem, branch, and leaf biomass percentages change considerably with age (particularly at younger ages) and vary with site-specific environmental conditions. Consequently, use of generic expansion factors, particularly those based on mature trees in mixed forests was deemed inappropriate for the WCYP database assembly exercise.

All database values resulting from conversions made in the process of data standardization are shown in red text and the originally reported units are shown in black text in the link to the published WCYP database found at the web address <https://www.bioenergykdf.net/WCYP> .

2.4 IDENTIFICATION OF VALUES REPRESENTING MAI_{max}

The third step in the data set development process was to study the woody crop growth patterns to determine the point (normally the year) when the mean value of annual growth or mean annual increment (MAI) is maximized (MAI_{max}) for the conditions being tested. Graphs were created of all multiyear growth information in the database to assist in visual evaluation of the data. The graphs, which can be found on the far right hand side of the WCYP growth pattern worksheet, were evaluated alongside the yield numbers and information on species, clones, planting density, and treatments. Data analysis results or statements in the text of the papers that were relevant to the status of the stand, such as information on canopy closure or basal area, were also helpful in drawing conclusions about the stand age associated with the MAI_{max}.

A relatively clear example of growth curves allowing verification of the MAI_{max} year with confidence is found in Fig. 1 whereas a more confusing example is shown in Fig. 2. The MAI curve of Fig. 1 reaches a peak and levels out, the current annual increment (CAI) curve reaches a distinct peak then trends downward, and the data set contains measurements past the point of intersection of the MAI and CAI curves. Although Fig. 1 was one of the clearest examples of classic MAI and CAI growth curves, it was nevertheless necessary to consult the actual mean annual yield numbers associated with the curves to make the decision on the age of MAI_{max}. The downward shift in the CAI curve between years 4 and 5, suggested that the MAI_{max} could have been achieved in the 5th year of growth. However upon consulting the actual numbers, the 6th year showed a mean yield value just slightly higher than that of the 5th year. While the values differed by a very small fraction, it was decided that the year with the highest value for MAI (stand age 6) would be chosen to represent the yield potential of the stand. This aligns our decision with conventional wisdom, which suggests that the optimal harvest age occurs at the point where the MAI curve intersects the CAI curve.

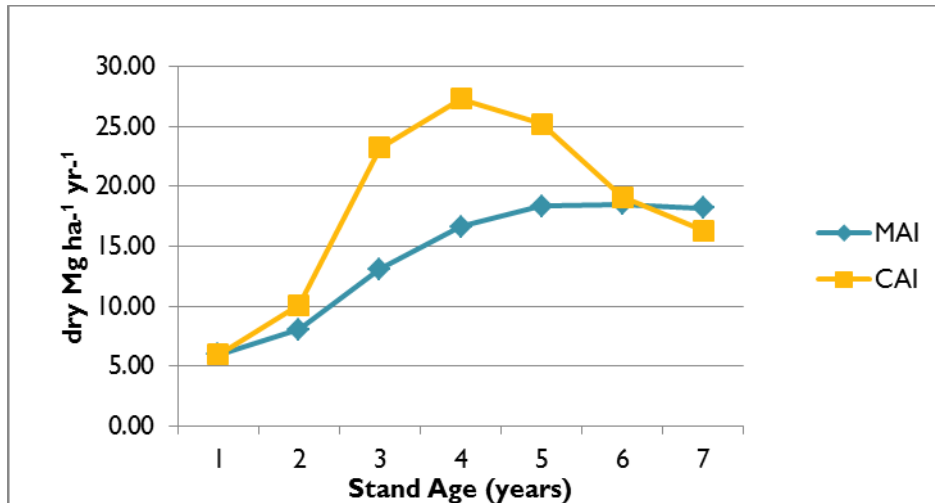


Fig. 1. Example of a relatively easy to interpret hybrid poplar growth pattern in a stand planted at about 10,000 trees ha⁻¹. (MAI = mean annual increment; CAI = current annual increment.)

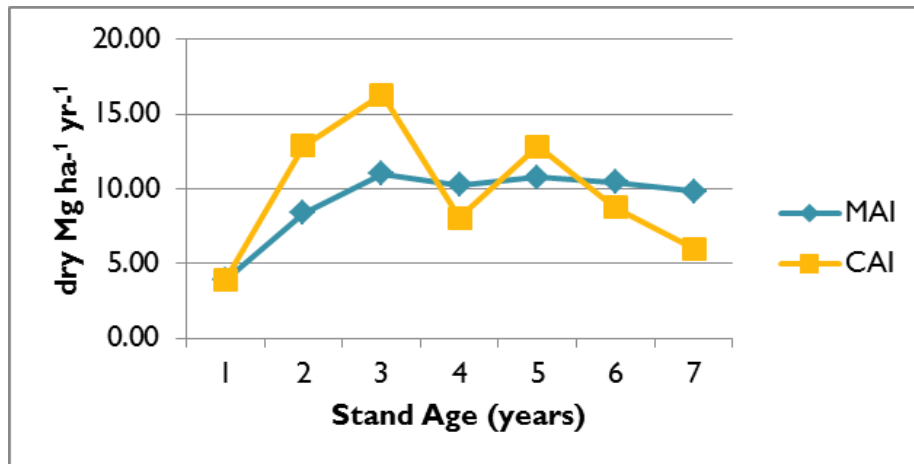


Fig. 2. Example of a more confusing hybrid poplar growth pattern in a stand planted at about 40,000 trees ha⁻¹. (MAI = mean annual increment; CAI = current annual increment.)

The Fig. 2 yield curve was produced in the same experiment as that of Fig. 1, but in a treatment using a different clone and a different planting density. While the site and climate conditions were the same for the Fig. 1 and 2 data sets, the planting density of the Fig. 2 data set is 4 times that of the data set represented in Fig. 1, and the clone differs. Both factors contributed to the MAI_{max} being reached early in the experiment. The Fig. 2 data set differs from most others in the database in that the yield measurements were carried well beyond the point of MAI_{max}. Because the yield in year 3 is the highest yield measured during the duration of this treatment, the year 3 value was deemed to be the MAI_{max} value for the data set represented in Fig. 2.

Many of the growth patterns observed in the data were very different from the smooth MAI and CAI growth curves shown in Fig. 1. Lack of continuous funding is a fact of life for woody crops researchers, frequently leading to incomplete or intermittent data collection. Decisions on MAI_{max} status often had to

be made with intermittent or incomplete data, or with growth patterns that were far from classic. The examples below (Figs. 3 and 4) required more thought and rationalization.

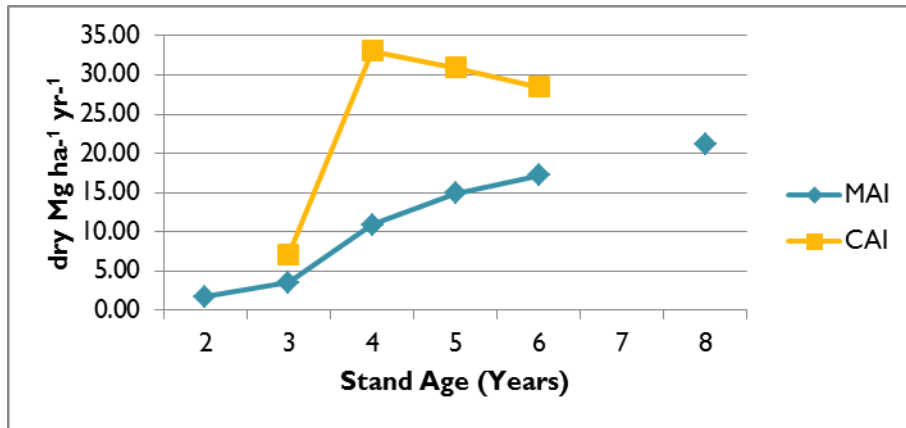


Fig. 3. Example of an incomplete growth data set for hybrid poplars planted at 1075 trees ha⁻¹. (MAI = mean annual increment; CAI = current annual increment.)

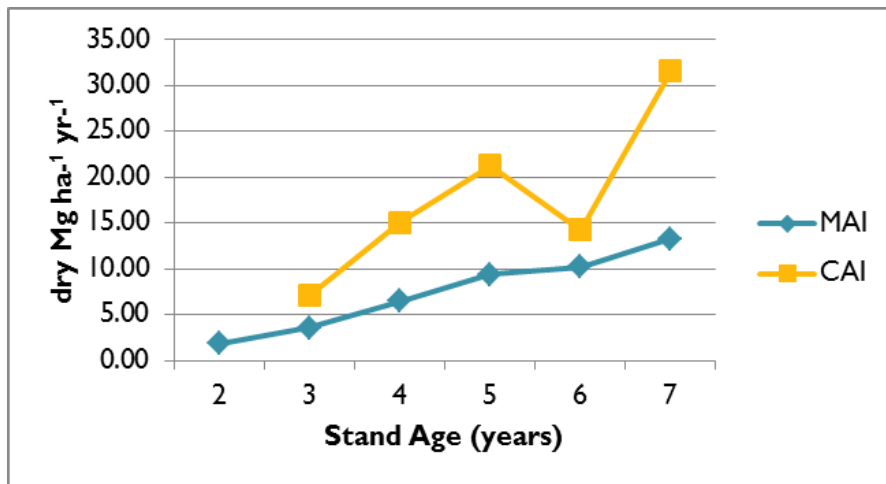


Fig. 4. Example of an atypical growth pattern of hybrid poplars planted at 1075 trees ha⁻¹. (MAI = mean annual increment; CAI = current annual increment.)

An effort was made to consider the probable MAI status of the incomplete data set graphed in Fig. 3, primarily because of the higher than normal mean annual yield value collected in the 8th year of the study and the apparent clear downturn in the CAI curve as early as year 4. Based on the experience gained from studying the growth patterns of many data sets, it was believed that the CAI curve had a high probability of intersecting the MAI curve by age 8. But since validation of that belief was not possible, the yield is described as being “near” rather than “at” the MAI_{max} in tables summarizing potential yield values.

The hybrid poplar planting density represented in Fig. 4 is the same as in Fig. 3; however, the location, the genotype, and planting years are different, all of which could explain the yield differences but not necessarily the growth pattern differences. In cases like this, where a large rise in the CAI occurs after an apparent downturn, the survival percentages would always be checked (if available) to determine whether a higher than normal mortality of some measurement trees might have allowed a growth spurt in the remaining trees. In this case, the survival of the measured trees was 100% during the 7 years of

measurement, so the explanation could not be found in the data set. Not documented was the possibility that poor climate conditions caused a slowdown in growth in the 6th year and much better conditions returned in year 7. Whatever the reasons for the distinct upturn in the CAI curve in year 7, the only conclusion that could be drawn was that measurement of the stand had not continued for enough time to identify the point of MAI_{max}. The data set was included in the WCYP database because the trial is believed to still be ongoing, and the potential for contributing additional information to the data set exists.

The growth patterns in annually harvested coppice plantings (Figs. 5 and 6) can be graphed in the same way as growth patterns in single stem plantings by summing all harvests to obtain cumulative growth over time, then dividing by stump age (or harvest years) to obtain the mean yield of the annually harvested crop over time. Some may disagree with the use of the MAI and CAI terms, but it seemed the most reasonable way to make the data comparable with multiple year rotation data.

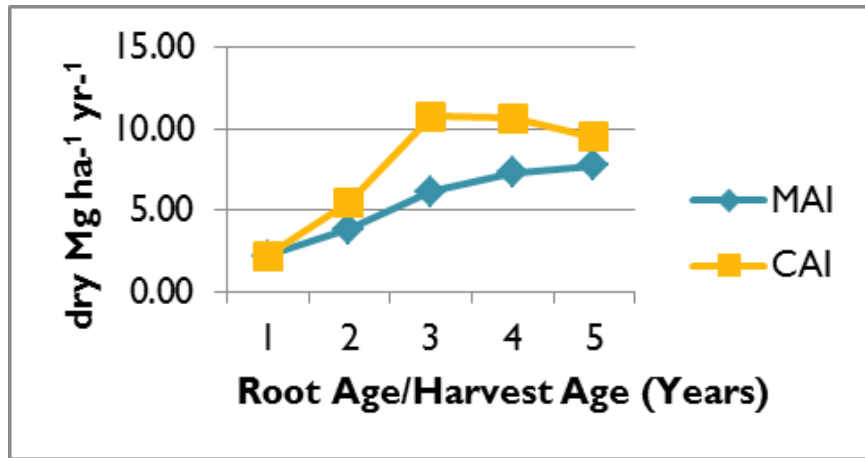


Fig. 5. Annually harvested willow coppice trials planted at more than 400,000 trees ha⁻¹ and fertilized. (MAI = mean annual increment; CAI = current annual increment.)

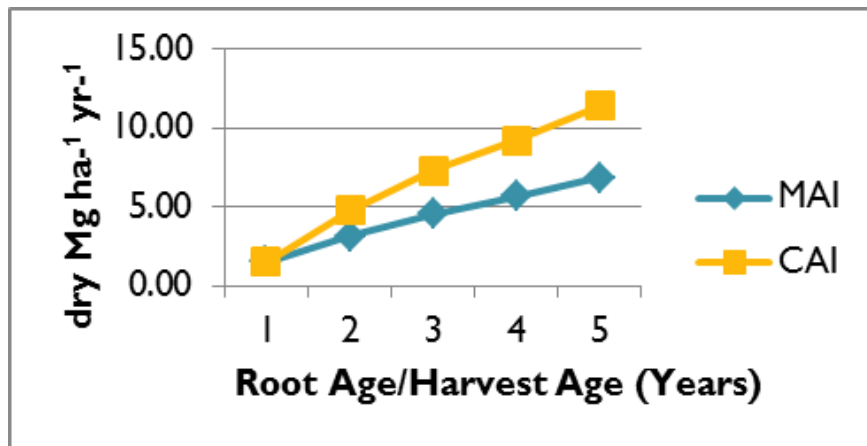


Fig. 6. Annually harvested willow coppice trials planted at more than 400,000 trees ha⁻¹ with no fertilization. (MAI = mean annual increment; CAI = current annual increment.)

It was concluded from Fig. 5 that the “CAI” of a fertilized treatment in a willow coppice stand had reached a maximum by age 3, suggesting that by age 5 the stand was “near” its MAI_{max}. On the other hand, in the unfertilized treatment of the same willow coppice stand (Fig. 6), the annually harvested yields showed no sign of slowing by age 5, and thus the MAI_{max} could not be determined. Survival of the original stumps in the Fig. 5 data set was only 67% by age 5 but was still 86% by year 5 in the Fig. 6 data set. Neither data set was included in the set of data being identified as suitable for regional yield potential analysis because in both cases the final yields were much less than yields demonstrated by other treatments with the same species in the same area.

Figure 7 is another example of an incomplete data set, but it is included here to show that when pines are planted at very high density and intensively cultured they can show similar MAI curves to those of poplars and willows. It was deemed pointless to calculate the CAI values associated with the pine data set (Fig. 7) as the measurement in year 4 was missed. Although a little uncertainty exists due to the missing year 4 measurements, it is likely that because the MAIs for years 3 and 5 are similar, the stand was at least “near” MAI_{max} by year 5.

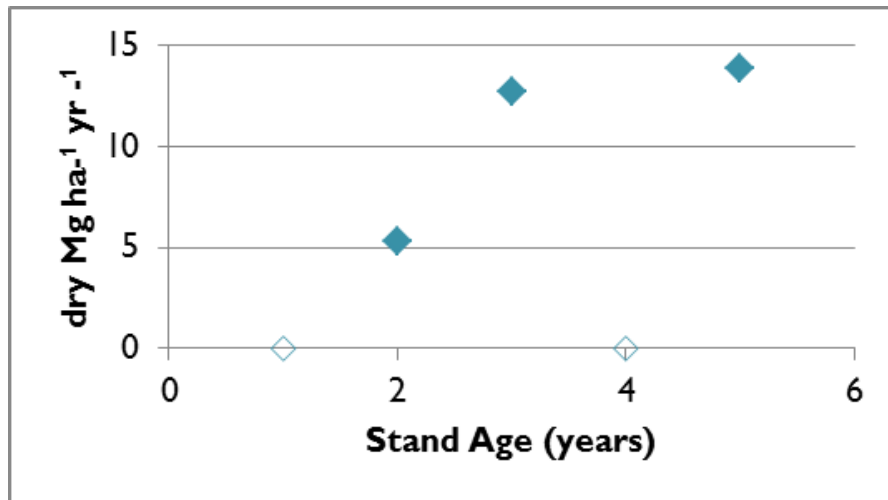


Fig. 7. Example of mean annual increment growth in an intensively cultured loblolly pine stand planted at 2,990 trees ha⁻¹ with measurements taken only in years 2, 3, and 5.

Figure 8 shows an example of a growth curve that is nearly as straightforward as that found with the hybrid poplar stand represented in Fig. 1. The only problem is that the direction of the CAI curve totally changed in the last year of data collection. If the data collection had ended at year 14, it would have been assumed that the stand was near its point of MAI_{max} as the CAI appeared to be clearly trending downward. However the increase of the CAI in year 15 makes it impossible to identify the point of actual MAI_{max}. Given the relatively high density at which the pine stand was planted, it is suspected that density dependent mortality (77% survival in year 15) may be releasing the remaining trees to obtain more growth. If so, the economically optimal harvest age may have been reached within the period of measurement. Even though the age of MAI_{max} was not determined for this stand, the results were accepted as being representative of yield potential for the loblolly pine variety, under the management, and site conditions experienced.

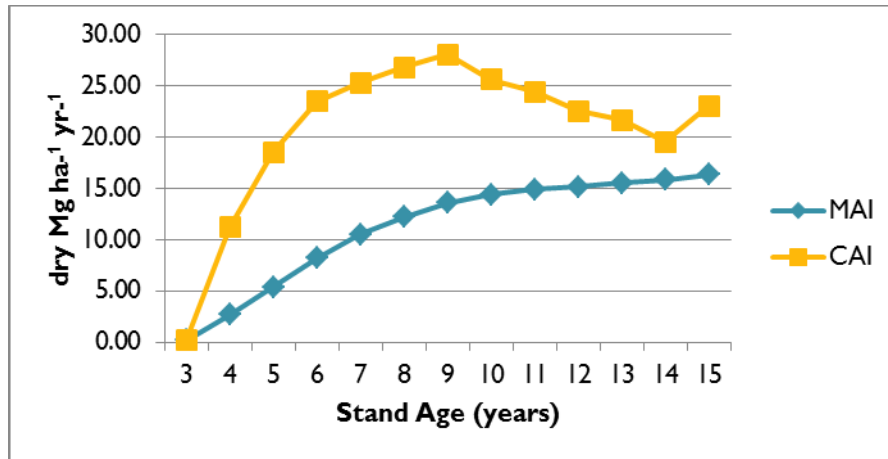


Fig. 8. Example of growth in an intensively cultured loblolly pine growth pattern planted at 1,660 trees ha⁻¹. (MAI = mean annual increment; CAI = current annual increment.)

Figure 9 represents the more common growth pattern found in the loblolly pine studies. Even though planting densities were similar to at least some of the poplar plantings, the growth patterns were generally different. This could be a function either of species responses or of climate conditions. Severe drought conditions are more likely to be experienced in the southeastern United States than in the northern United States. The pine stands required a longer period of time to approach MAI_{max}, and the annual incremental growth was highly variable from year to year even with irrigated and fertilized treatments. Almost none of the loblolly pine trials were measured long enough to absolutely verify that MAI_{max} had been reached even though they were observed for between 5 to 15 years.

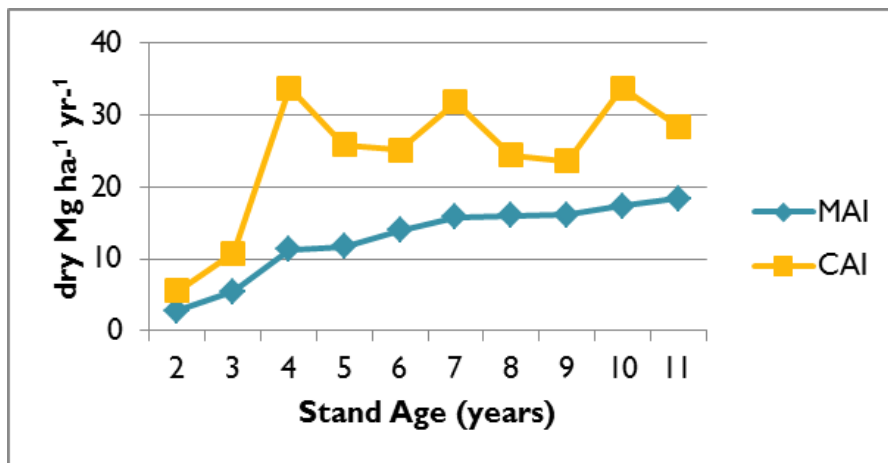


Fig. 9. Example of growth in an intensively cultured loblolly pine stand planted at 1,070 trees ha⁻¹. (MAI = mean annual increment; CAI = current annual increment.)

When yield values are verified as clearly representing the stand age at MAI_{max}, a cell at the end of the appropriate row in the WCYP database (growth pattern worksheet) is highlighted in purple. Yield values deemed to be “near MAI_{max}” are identified by a cell highlighted in pink at the end of the appropriate row in the WCYP database. These and other notations in the WCYP database are explained in the first few rows of the growth pattern worksheet.

2.5 IDENTIFICATION OF VALUES SUITABLE FOR YIELD POTENTIAL ANALYSIS

When this project was initiated, it was decided that only data sets with yields verified to be at or near MAI_{max} would be suitable for inclusion. However, once it was discovered that many of the data sets reporting high yields could not be verified to have reached the point of MAI_{max} , that constraint was relaxed. Thus results from trials reporting only the yields at the final year of measurement or at harvest were also included in the WCYP database and accepted as a source of yield values suitable for yield potential analysis under some conditions. For example, final measurement results from experiments where high stocking densities were intended to promote rapid growth and where final yields approached high values¹² were included. Also, if the experiment description stated that or data were provided indicating that the stand under investigation had reached canopy closure or culmination of periodic annual basal area or that the incremental yield growth was slowing before the final measurements,¹³ the data were included with confidence. In one case¹⁴, a paper only reported year 4 yields from a clone trial without much information to ascertain stand status, but another paper¹⁵ describing the same clone trial included published volume curves that clearly indicated that some or all of the clones had passed the point of CAI_{max} by year 4. In this case, the year 4 yield data were not only included in the WCYP, but also accepted as “near” MAI_{max} .

Thus in summary, yield data accepted as suitable for yield potential analysis and included in the WCYP SELECT worksheet had to meet at least one of the following criteria.

1. MAI was verified to be “at” its maximum value by MAI and CAI growth curves and the MAI_{max} yield exceeded 9 dry Mg ha⁻¹ yr⁻¹ (~4 dry Tons ac⁻¹ yr⁻¹)
2. MAI was deemed “near” its maximum value, the text indicated canopy closure, and highest MAI yield exceeded 9 dry Mg ha⁻¹ yr⁻¹
3. MAI curve had reached a point where the rate of increase was level or falling and the highest MAI yield exceeded 11.6 dry Mg ha⁻¹ yr⁻¹ even though the growth data did not provide enough information to designate the MAI_{max} point.

All experiments had at least two treatments at each location, and some had many treatments when similar plantings were established with multiple species or clones. Clonal trials might have as many as 50 to 100 clones being tested. If the number of clones being tested was 10 or fewer, then results of all clones were included in the WCYP growth pattern worksheet; however, in instances where yield results of many clones were reported, only the yield results of the top 5 to 10 clones were included in the WCYP growth pattern worksheet (a decision that is consistent with commercial recommendations). In a couple of the publications referenced, yield reporting was limited to the top three to five clones, the single best clone, and the average of two controls. If yield values for the individual controls could be found, they were included in the WCYP database as individual values rather than as control averages. If all treatments within a single experiment met one or more of the above three criteria, then only the best two or three treatments were chosen for inclusion in the WCYP SELECT worksheet. All data rows that contained the values considered to be useful for yield potential analysis were made to be bold in the complete WCYP growth pattern worksheet and copied as values into the WCYP SELECT worksheet.

2.6 DATABASE ASSEMBLY RESULTS

The current set of data in the WCYP database is derived from 41 unique reference sources describing 79 experiments in the United States or southern Canada with a total of 473 different treatments. The database contains several worksheets. The worksheet that reports the complete yield curves contains roughly 1,660 rows of data and 81 columns of parameters reporting yields and associated treatment factors. Separate worksheets, linked by the source publication author and year, describe the sites and soils associated with each experiment; another separate worksheet assembles only the final yields deemed appropriate for yield potential analysis. Other worksheets contain conversion factors relevant to the database and notes pertaining to decisions made regarding organization of the data.

Of the 473 experimental treatments included in the 79 experiments described in the WCYP database, only 170 of the treatments provided sufficient growth pattern information for verifying that the measurements had included yield data deemed to be at or near the age of MAI_{max} . Thus only 36% of the treatments in the studies publishing woody crop growth curves were followed long enough to actually obtain the maximum average yield obtainable with that specific treatment. This is to be expected as once the maximum yields of the best treatment options are identified in an experiment, there is marginal value in continuing to measure the less than optimal treatment conditions of that experiment.

Fourteen of the publications included in development of the WCYP database did not report sufficient growth pattern information to verify the point of MAI_{max} in any of the treatments evaluated. The results were nevertheless included for one or more of the following reasons: (1) the results provided useful or interesting site or treatment comparisons, (2) the authors believed the stands were at an appropriate harvest age for the chosen planting density, or (3) the experiments are continuing and additional data may become available.

Of the 170 treatments verified to be at or near MAI_{max} , only 101 of the treatments were considered useful for evaluating yield potential because some of the treatments were controls or low-culture intensity treatments that did not produce high yields. However some reported data, while not verifiable as MAI_{max} values, were sufficiently high to be considered useful for yield analysis. Thus the final conclusion was that about 123 yield values (rows in the database) were of value for use in woody crop yield potential studies. These rows of data were copied and the values pasted into a separate worksheet within the total database (Excel spreadsheet) named "WCYP SELECT." This worksheet has also transformed into a searchable and sortable table that can be found at the web address <https://www.bioenergykdf.net/WCYP>. Descriptive information associated with this table will provide the link to the entire database.

Nevertheless, the WCYP database summarizes a very broad set of old and new standing biomass data from plantation-grown hardwoods and softwoods established under a wide range of conditions across the United States and Canada. Nearly all data sets included in the database were found in publically available information sources. The majority of those were peer-reviewed literature sources. In some cases, non-peer-reviewed proceedings, papers, presentations, and student theses or dissertations also served as sources of yield data, particularly for some of the experimental details associated with the yield data. While electronically available, such sources cannot be easily found without intense and very specific internet searches. In some cases, use of multiple papers from the same research institution was required to obtain the desired level of detail on the experimental sites and methods. In a few cases, some experimental details were not found in public reports but were gleaned from the collection of unpublished biomass research subcontractor reports housed at ORNL. To the extent possible, those sources are being digitized and made available through ORNL websites.

During the initial sweep of data collection, many partial sets of yield data were typed into Excel tables that did not end up being included in the final WCYP database, largely because of the obvious

incompleteness of the growth curves and because of the lack of supporting experimental details. It may appear that some obvious reports of yield results have been overlooked, but close inspection of multiple publications from the same institutions revealed that the same data were often published several times with a slightly different emphasis in each paper. In those cases, the one or two papers providing the best overall level of experimental detail were chosen to represent those data sets.

The current version of the WCYP database (circa 2012) does not include all information that could potentially be assembled for evaluating woody crop yield potential, particularly for the Southeast. Some new plantings are just beginning to generate data, some old and relatively new woody crop stands exist that have been measured for standing biomass, but the data have not yet been published, and some data that were provided for this database compilation exercise did not have enough supporting information to allow full interpretation of the data. It is hoped that this database will be used by others as a base set to which new data will be added over time.

3. YIELD SUMMARY TABLES

3.1 TABLE DESCRIPTIONS

While the entire set of information associated with the high yielding trials cannot be included in this publication, a very good representation of the type of data assembled can be derived from the following tables which compare yields across the range of cultural treatments tested.

This publication includes tables with selected mean annual yield values from the database as a means of providing a condensed summary of a large portion of the database. The tables purposely show high, medium, and low mean annual yields of hardwoods within four regions of the United States (the Northeast, Southeast, North Central/Midwest, and Pacific Northwest) and pine yields in the Southeast using culture intensity as the grouping factor. The southeastern pine yields were included because the amount of data on southeastern hardwoods is limited and pines are an important biomass resource in the Southeast.

The data summarized in Tables 1 through 5 have been presented in a way that allows visual evaluation of several factors affecting woody crop yield potential. The tables group the data by regions, species, and culture intensity (where high intensity may be high stocking density, high fertilizer levels, weed control, pest control, irrigation inputs, and advanced generation genetic materials or combinations thereof). Because the MAI_{max} values of a stand are the key values that should be used in making comparisons across species, sites, and regions, the MAI_{max} values are used (when available) rather than the last measurements taken. All treatments measured or harvested before reaching MAI_{max} are footnoted with an assessment of whether the final measurement or harvest of the treatment was approaching MAI_{max} . The footnotes, e, f, and g in the “Stem Age” column (representing age at which the stand was at or near MAI_{max}) are defined the same in Tables 1-4 regardless of the order in which they appear. Only one Loblolly pine dataset provided a growth curve allowing verification of the MAI_{max} and that dataset is indicated by an asterisk (*) next to the stem age.

The loblolly pine trials in the Southeast offered data from well documented experiments established purposely to compare culture intensity levels. In other regions the comparisons were much less rigorous, generally involving similar species or clones established at different times, in different locations, and at different culture intensities. Consideration of site factors was very limited, but a notation was made when the text identified the sites as fertile, especially when fertilization was not involved.

As a means of demonstrating that silvicultural inputs as well as site factors need to be taken into account when evaluating the information in this database, some of the data sets were assembled in tables and grouped by silvicultural intensity levels. The tables include only a representative sample of the information in the WCYP database (Excel spreadsheet). The link to the entire database can found at <https://www.bioenergykdf.net/WCYP>.

Table 1. Maximum mean annual yields from published growth curves of willow (*Salix dasyclados*) and hybrid poplar (*Populus*) in high density small plot silviculture and clone trials in the Northeast grouped by culture intensity level

Culture Intensity ^a and Location(s)	Genotypes ^b	Yield ^c (oven dry Mg ha ⁻¹ yr ⁻¹)	Stem Age ^d (rotation)	Total Rotation N, P, K (kg ⁻¹ ha ⁻¹)	Plant Density (trees ha ⁻¹)	Survival (%)	Plant Year	Reference Source
Very high intensity culture (weed control, irrigation, very high fertilization)								
T, W, I, HF Tully, NY	SV1	19.3	1 (1)	224, 112, 112	111, 111	92	1990	16
		15.0	1 (1)	224, 112, 112	15, 152	92		
T, W, I, HF Tully, NY	SV1	17.4	2 (1) ^e	448, 224, 224	37, 037	85	1990	16
		17.4	4 (2) ^e	448, 0, 0	37, 037	80		
T, W, I, HF Tully, NY	SV1	23.8	3 (1) ^e	672, 224, 224	37, 037	66	1990	16, 17
		27.5	3 (1) ^e	672, 224, 224	37, 037	NA		
T, W, I, HF Tully, NY	NM5 SV1	8.8	1 (5) ^f	336, 112, 224	111, 111	26	1987	18
		11.6	1 (5)	336, 112, 224	111, 111	46		
T, W, I, F Huntingdon Co, PA	NE388 NE388	10.5	4 (1) ^e	non-limiting	20, 833	80	1981	18, 19
		11.4	3 (2)	non-limiting	20, 833	46		
High Intensity culture (weed control, high fertilization)								
T, W, HF Tully, NY	SV1	8.9	3 (1) ^f	672, 224, 224	37, 037	NA NA	1990	17
T, W, F Tully, NY	SV1	13.25	1 (1)	Sludge-mulch ^h 1200, 0, 0	15, 152	NA NA	1995	20
T, W, F Tully, NY	SV1	11.6	2 (1)	Slow release 100, 0, 0	15, 152	NA NA	1995	20
T, W, F Huntingdon Co, PA	NE388 NE388	10.1	4 (1) ^e	non-limiting	20, 833	83	1981	19
		12.9	3 (2)	non-limiting	20, 833	51		
Medium intensity culture (weed control, irrigation)								
T, W, I Tully, NY	NM5 SV1	9.8	1 (5)	0, 0, 0	111, 111	39	1987	18
		10.0	1 (5)	0, 0, 0	111, 111	39		
T, W, I Huntingdon Co, PA	NE388 NE388	8.3	4 (1) ^e	0, 0, 0	20, 833	87	1981	19
		10.0	3 (2)	0, 0, 0	20, 833	79		
Low Intensity culture or experimental controls (weed control)								
T, W Tully, NY	SV1	8.4	3 (1) ^f	0, 0, 0	15, 152	NA NA	1995	20
T, W SW of Montreal	NM6 SX64	18.1	4 (1) ^g	0, 0, 0	18, 146	NA	1999	21
		16.9	4 (1) ^g	0, 0, 0	18, 146	NA		
T, W Huntingdon Co, PA	NE388	9.4	4 (1) ^e	0, 0, 0	109, 649	67	1970	22
T, W Huntingdon Co, PA	NE388 NE388	8.4	4 (1) ^g	0, 0, 0	20, 833	89	1981	19
		10.3	3 (2)	0, 0, 0	20, 833	82		

^aCulture intensity notations are as follows: T = site preparation tillage, W = chemical weed control, I = irrigation, F = fertilization, HF = High Fertilization, P = pest control.

^bSVI (select clone of *Salix dasyclados*), NM5 (*Populus nigra* x *P. maximowiczii*), NE388 (*Populus maximowiczii* x *P. trichocarpa*), SX64 (select clone of *Salix miyabeana*).

^cYield is the mean annual increment (MAI) of the total aboveground dry weight (without foliage for hardwoods) at growth curve maximum or harvest.

^dThe stem age column optimally reports the growth year in which the planted trees reached maximum mean annual increment (MAI_{max}). When measurements did not extend over a sufficient number of years to verify MAI_{max}, footnotes describe the assumptions associated with the yield data. The stem age of stands that were “coppiced” at end of the establishment year is one year less than the stump age (unless annually harvested). Annually harvested coppice growth always shows stem age as 1 and the number in parenthesis is the harvest year (or rotation) in which the maximum average growth rate is obtained.

^eAge of MAI_{max} was not verifiable but growth pattern suggested final harvest measurement likely to be close to MAI_{max}.

^fAge of MAI_{max} was not verifiable but high density of planting suggests final measurement or harvest could be near appropriate harvest age

^gAge of MAI_{max} was not verifiable but yield included to allow comparisons as function of location, species or culture intensity.

^hNitrogen value of the sludge was 1200 kg ha⁻¹ all in organic form.

Table 2. Maximum mean annual yields of poplars (*Populus* hybrids and *Populus deltoides*), silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*), alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) and black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) in small-plot silvicultural and clone trials in the North Central and Mid-west United States grouped by culture intensity level

Culture Intensity ^a and Location(s)	Genotypes ^b	Yield ^c (oven dry Mg ha ⁻¹ yr ⁻¹)	Stem Age ^d (Rotation)	Total Rotation N, P, K kg ⁻¹ ha ⁻¹	Plant Density trees ha ⁻¹	Survival %	Plant Year	Reference Source
Very high intensity culture (weed control, irrigation, non-limiting fertilization, high planting density)								
T, W, I, HF, Rhineland, WI	NC5260	13.6	4 (1) ^f	Non-limiting	189,035	79	1970	23
		15.2	4 (1) ^f	N, P & K + micronutrients	111,111	88	1970	
High intensity culture (weed control, irrigation, high nitrogen, mostly high planting density)								
T, W, I, F Rhineland, WI	NC5260	9.9	5 (1) ^f	560, 0, 0	111,111	NA	1973	24
		8.7	9 (1) ^f	996, 0, 0	3,086	NA	1977	
T, W, I, F Rhineland, WI	NE299	10.8	6 (1)	666, 0, 0	27,778	NA	1977	24
T, W, I, F Rhineland, WI	NE299	10.7	6 (1)	550, 0, 0	27,778	36	1981	25, 26
		7.2	5 (2)	550, 0, 0	27,778	19	1978	
Medium intensity culture (weed control, irrigation or fertile floodplain, mostly high planting density)								
T, W, I Rhineland, WI	NE41	12.8	6 (1)	0, 0, 0	10,000	95	1981	24
	NE41	11.4	7 (1)	0, 0, 0	5,000			
	NE386	11.4	6 (1)	0, 0, 0	10,000	92	1981	
	NE386	9.2	7 (1)	0, 0, 0	5,000			
T, W, I; fertile New Franklin, MO	<i>P. deltoides</i> 26CR51	10.6	5 (1) ^{f, g}	0, 0, 0	10,000	99	2000	12
	2059	11.6	5 (1) ^{f, g}	0, 0, 0	10,000	90	2000	
	1112	10.6	5 (1) ^{f, g}	0, 0, 0	10,000	83	2000	
T, W; fertile Manhattan, KA	<i>P. deltoides</i> A.	8.9	2 (2)	0, 0, 0	6,727	98	1973	27, 28
	<i>saccharinum</i>	10.6	2 (2)	0, 0, 0	13,455	96	1973	
	<i>A. glutinosa</i>	11.3	2 (2)	0, 0, 0	26,909	95	1973	
T, W; fertile Manhattan, KA	<i>P. deltoides</i> R.	6.3	1 (2)	0, 0, 0	107.637	NA	1985	28
	<i>pseudoacacia</i>	9.1	1 (2)	0, 0, 0	107.637	NA	1985	
Medium intensity culture (very small plot clone trials on experimental farms with high soil quality)								
T, W Arlington, WI, Ames, IA	Best 5 of 59 poplar clones ^b	18.2	8 (1) ^e	0, 0, 0	1075	100	1995	29, 30
		16.7	9 (1) ^e	0, 0, 0	1075	100	1995	
T, W Arlington, WI Ames, IA	Best 1 of 59 poplar clones ^b	21.9	8 (1) ^e	0, 0, 0	1075	100	1995	29, 30
		24.5	9 (1) ^e	0, 0, 0	1075	100	1995	
Low Intensity or experimental controls								
T, W 6 locations across 4 NC states	Average of DN17, DN34, & DN182	4.0 - 8.7 range	7 - 10 (1)	0, 0, 0	1682	88	1987	26
T, W 6 locations across 4 NC states	Average of DN17, DN34, & DN182	4.8 - 9.5 range	6 - 9 (1)	0, 0, 0	1682	88	1988	26
T, P Ames, Iowa, US	<i>P. deltoides</i> 91x04-03, D105	11.5	8(1) ^g	0,0,0	1667	90	1998	31
		9.8	8(1) ^g	0,0,0	1667	100	1998	

^aCulture intensity notations are as follows: T = site preparation tillage, W = chemical weed control, I = irrigation, F = fertilization, HF = High Fertilization, P = pest control.

^bAll are *Populus* hybrids unless otherwise noted. NC5260, NE299, NC5331, NM6, NE41, NE388, DN17, DN34, and DN182, are older selected *Populus* hybrid clones. 26CR51, 2059, and 1112 are pure *Populus deltoides* clones collected and distributed by the Missouri Department of Conservation. 91x04-03 is a pure *Populus deltoides* selected by Iowa State University breeders.

^cYield is the mean annual increment (MAI) of the total aboveground dry weight (without foliage for hardwoods) at growth curve maximum.

^dThe stem age column optimally reports the growth year in which the planted trees reached maximum mean annual increment (MAI_{max}). When measurements did not extend over a sufficient number of years to verify MAI_{max}, footnotes describe the assumptions associated with the yield data. The stem age of stands that were "coppiced" at the end of the establishment year is one year less than the stump age (unless annually harvested). Annually harvested coppice growth always shows stem age as 1 and the number in parenthesis is the harvest year (rotation) in which the maximum average growth rate is obtained.

^eAge of MAI_{max} was not verifiable but growth pattern suggested final harvest measurement likely to be close to MAI_{max}.

^fAge of MAI_{max} was not verifiable but high density of planting suggests final measurement could be near appropriate harvest age.

^gAge of MAI_{max} was not verifiable but yield included to allow comparisons as function of location, species or culture intensity.

Table 3. Maximum mean annual yields (or harvest yields) from published growth curves of cottonwood (*Populus trichocarpa*) and poplar (*Populus*) hybrids in small plot silvicultural and clone trials in the Pacific Northwest grouped by culture intensity level

Culture Intensity ^a and Location	Genotypes ^b	Yield ^c (oven dry Mg ha ⁻¹ yr ⁻¹)	Stem Age ^d (Rotation)	Total Rotation N, P, K (kg ⁻¹ ha ⁻¹)	Plant Density (trees ha ⁻¹)	Survival (%)	Plant Year	Reference Source
Very High Intensity (very high fertilizer on fertile site, high fertilizer and very high density on less fertile site)								
T, W, F; fertile Puyallup, WA	15-029	30.5	4 (1) ^e	500, 0, 0	2,222	100 ⁷	1987	13
	44-133	31.2	4 (1) ^e	500, 0, 0	2,222	100 ⁷		
T, W, I, F Olympia, WA	11-11	7.1	1 (1-3)	200, 43, 74	308,642	98	1986	32
	D-01	7.4	1 (1-5)	200, 43, 74	308,642	96		
High Intensity (fertile site with select clones, high fertilizer and/or high density on less fertile sites)								
T, W, I; fertile Puyallup, WA	11-05	23.1	4 (1) ^f	0, 0, 0	10,000	100	1985	14
	11-11	29.4	4 (1) ^f	0, 0, 0	10,000	100		
	19-56	23.2	4 (1) ^f	0, 0, 0	10,000	100		
	44-136	24.2	4 (1) ^f	0, 0, 0	10,000	100		
	55-258	29.2	4 (1) ^f	0, 0, 0	10,000	100		
T, W, F; fertile Puyallup, WA	<i>P. trichocarpa</i> 50 clone avg.	12.5	4 (1) ^f	225, 0, 0	6,944	74	1979	33, 34, 35
	50 clone avg.	11.3	4 (2) ^e	133, 0, 0	6,944	74		
T,W,F; fertile Puyallup, WA	11-11	27.5	4 (1) ^f	225, 0, 0	6,944	95	1979	33, 34, 35
	11-11	43.5	4 (2) ^e	133, 0, 0	6,944	95		
T,W,F; fertile Puyallup, WA	11-05	27.8	4 (1) ^f	225, 0, 0	6,944	95	1979	33, 34, 35
	11-05	33.5	4 (2) ^e	133, 0, 0	6,944	95		
T, W, I, F Olympia, WA	11-11	17.7	5 (1)	200, 43, 83	40,000	95	1986	36
	11-11	18.5	6 (1)	200, 43, 83	10,000	95		
	11-11	17.1	7 (1) ^g	300, 43, 83	2,500	95		
T, W, F Mt Vernon, WA	<i>P. trichocarpa</i>	10.4	4 (3) ^g	Multiple	111,111	47	1967	37
	<i>P. trichocarpa</i>	10.8	2 (2) ^g	levels – no	26, 874	53		
	<i>P. trichocarpa</i>	9.2	4 (3) ^g	effect	6,719	83		
Low Intensity or Experimental Controls								
T, W, Sumner, WA	<i>P. trichocarpa</i>	7.9	8 (1) ^g	0,0,0	111,111	95	1971	37
	<i>P. trichocarpa</i>	9.6	8 (1) ^g	0,0,0	26, 874	95		
	<i>P. trichocarpa</i>	6.6	8 (1) ^g	0,0,0	6,719	95		
	<i>P. trichocarpa</i>	5.6	8 (1) ^g	0,0,0	4,479	95		
	<i>P. trichocarpa</i>	7.6	8 (1) ^g	0,0,0	2,986	95		
T, W; fertile Puyallup, WA	15-029	25.9	4 (1) ^e	0,0,0	2,222	100	1987	13
	44-136	27.5	4 (1) ^e	0,0,0	2,222	100		

^aCulture intensity notations are as follows: T = site preparation tillage, W = weed control, I = irrigation, F = fertilization, P = pest control

^bAll are *Populous* hybrids unless otherwise noted. 15-029, 44-133, 11-05, 11-11, 19-56, 44-136, and 55-258 are selected clones of *Populus deltoides* x *P. trichocarpa*, many resulting from breeding by Reini Stettler at the University of Washington in the 1970's. D-01 is a hybrid poplar clone of unknown origin deployed by Dula's nursery in Washington or Oregon.

^cYield is the mean annual increment (MAI) of the total aboveground dry weight (without foliage for hardwoods) at growth curve maximum or harvest.

^dThe stem age column optimally reports the growth year in which the planted trees reached MAI_{max} based on published growth curves. When measurements did not extend over sufficient years to verify MAI_{max}, footnotes describe the assumptions associated with the yield data.

^eAge of MAI_{max} was not verifiable but growth pattern suggested final harvest measurement likely to be close to MAI_{max}.

^fAge of MAI_{max} was not verifiable but high density of planting suggests stand could be near appropriate harvest age.

^gAge of MAI_{max} was not verifiable but yield included to allow comparisons as function of location, species or culture intensity.

Table 4. Maximum mean annual yields (or final measurements) from published growth curves of hardwoods (sweetgum, *Liquidambar styraciflua*; sycamore, *Platanus occidentalis*; Eucalyptus, *Eucalyptus grandis* and *Eucalyptus amplifolia*; water-willow oak, *Quercus sp.*) in small plot silvicultural trials evaluated in the southern United States grouped by culture intensity level

Culture Intensity ^a and Location (s)	Genotype ^b	Yield ^c (oven dry Mg ha ⁻¹ yr ⁻¹)	Stem Age ^d (Rotation)	Total Rotation N, P, K kg ⁻¹ ha ⁻¹	Plant Density (trees ha ⁻¹)	Survival (%)	Plant Year	Reference Source
Very High Intensity (irrigation plus high fertilizer)								
R, W, I, F, P Bainbridge, GA	<i>L. styraciflua</i> (select)	9.6	6 (1) ^f	480, 126, 510	1,070	NA	1995	38
R, W, I, F Mt Pleasant, GA	<i>L. styraciflua</i> <i>P. occidentalis</i>	6.9	6 (1) ^f	510, 75, 284	1,794	96	1997	39
		8.2	6 (1) ^f	510, 75, 284	1,794	97	1997	
High Intensity (high fertilizer, or relatively high density)								
R, W, I, F Mt Pleasant, GA	<i>L. styraciflua</i> <i>P. occidentalis</i>	4.6	6 (1) ^g	342, 50, 189	1,794	96	1997	39
		5.5	6 (1) ^g	342, 50, 189	1,794	97	1997	
T, W, F Oak Ridge, TN	<i>P. occidentalis</i>	14.5	3 (1) ^g	450, 50, 0	3,333	NA	1988	40
R, W(poor), F Mayesville, SC	<i>P. occidentalis</i> <i>P. occidentalis</i>	5.5	7 (1)	452, 103, 0	1,389	78	1996	41
		6.1	6 (1)	349, 92, 0	1,389	88	1996	
T, W Belle Glade, FL	<i>E. grandis</i> <i>E. grandis</i>	14.4	2.5 (1)	0, 0, 0	1,600	81	1980	42
		23.8	1.5 (1)	0, 0, 0	10,000	87	1980	
T, B, F Lakeland, FL	<i>E. grandis</i> <i>E. amplifolia</i>	28.5	3.2 (1)	53, 0, 0	8,400	56	2001	5
		31.6	3.2 (1)	53, 0, 0	8,400	89	2001	
T, B Lakeland, FL	<i>E. grandis</i> <i>E. amplifolia</i>	22.8	3.2 (1)	0, 0, 0	8,400	70	2001	5
		29.0	3.2 (1)	0, 0, 0	8,400	88	2001	
Low Intensity or experimental controls (lower density and/or no N fertilizer)								
T, B Lakeland, FL	<i>E. grandis</i> <i>E. amplifolia</i>	12.5	3.2 (1)	0, 0, 0	4,200	87	2001	5
		5.8	2.5 (1)	0, 0, 0	4,200	87		
R, T, W Monroeville, AL	<i>L. styraciflua</i> 3 densities	10.2	5 (1)	0, 0, 0	5,382	87	1982	43
		7.5	5 (1)	0, 0, 0	2,691	87		
R, T, W Monroeville, AL	<i>P. occidentalis</i> 3 densities & 2 rotations	5.0	6 (1) ^g	0, 0, 0	1,791	76		43
		8.5	5 (1)	0, 0, 0	5,382	100	1982	
		9.4	2 (2) ^f	0, 0, 0	5,382	100		
		6.9	3 (1)	0, 0, 0	2,691	98		
		6.6	3 (2) ^g	0, 0, 0	2,691	99		
		6.7	4 (1) ^g	0, 0, 0	1,791	100		
R, T, W Monroeville, AL	<i>Quercus sp.</i> (water-willow oak)	5.9	3 (2) ^g	0, 0, 0	1,791	100		43
		9.5	5 (1)	0, 0, 0	5,382	96	1982	
		10.9	2 (2) ^g	0, 0, 0	5,382	83		
		7.1	6 (1) ^g	0, 0, 0	2,691	84		
R, W Bainbridge, GA	<i>L. styraciflua</i> (select)	6.5	2 (2) ^g	0, 0, 0	2,691	90		38
		3.3	6 (1) ^g	0, 0, 0	1,070	NA	1995	
R, W Mt Pleasant, GA	<i>L. styraciflua</i> <i>P. occidentalis</i>	0.6	6 (1) ^g	0, 0, 0	1,794	96	1997	39
		0.9	6 (1) ^g	0, 0, 0	1,794	97		
T, W Oak Ridge, TN	<i>P. occidentalis</i>	9.5	3 (1) ^g	0, 0, 0	3,333	NA	1988	40

^aCulture intensity notations are as follows: R = ripped for site preparation, T = site preparation tillage, W = chemical weed control, I = irrigation, F = fertilization, B = bedding, P = pest control.

^bTree genotypes used in these experiments were unselected, open pollinated seedlings unless otherwise noted.

^cYield is the mean annual increment (MAI) of the total aboveground dry weight (without foliage for hardwoods) at growth curve maximum or harvest.

^dThe stem age column optimally reports the growth year in which the planted trees reached maximum mean annual increment (MAI_{max}) based on published growth curves. When measurements did not extend over a sufficient number of years to verify MAI_{max}, footnotes describe the assumptions associated with the yield data.

^eAge of MAI_{max} was not verifiable but growth pattern suggested final measurement likely to be close to MAI_{max} (none on this table).

^fAge of MAI_{max} was not verifiable but high density of planting suggests final measurement or harvest was near appropriate harvest age

^gAge of MAI_{max} was not verifiable but yield included to allow comparisons as a function of location, species or culture intensity.

Table 5. Near maximum mean annual yields (or final measurements) from published growth curves of loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda* L.) evaluated in southeastern small plot silvicultural trials grouped by culture intensity level

Culture Intensity ^a and Location (s)	Genotype ^b	Yield ^c (oven dry Mg ha ⁻¹ yr ⁻¹)	Stem Age ^d	Total Rotation N, P, K (kg ⁻¹ ha ⁻¹)	Plant Density trees ha ⁻¹	Survival %	Plant Year	Reference Source
Very High Intensity (high fertilizer plus most with additional treatments)								
W, I, F, P Bainbridge GA	Family 7-56	18.4	11	980, 241, 953	1070	76	1995	3
W, I, F Bainbridge GA	Family 7-56	19.2	11	980, 241, 953	1070	84	1995	3
W, I, F, P Bainbridge GA	4 family avg	15.2	6	537, 126, 510	1070	NA	1995	38
W, HF (Wet) Waycross, GA	Family 7-56	17.0	15	1254, 200, 181	1660	79	1987	4
W, HF (Dry) Waycross, GA	Family 7-56	16.4	15	1254, 200, 181	1660	87	1987	4
HF (Wet) Waycross, GA	Family 7-56	16.4	15	1254, 200, 181	1660	77	1987	4
HF (Dry) Waycross, GA	Family 7-56	15.2	15	1254, 200, 181	1660	76	1987	4
W, I, HF Mt Pleasant, GA	Family 7-56	12.0	6	684, 100, 378	1794	99	1997	39
High Intensity (weed control with fertilizer and/or irrigation)								
W, I Bainbridge, GA	Family 7-56	16.1	11	0, 0, 0	1070	85	1995	3
W, I, F Bainbridge, GA	4 family avg	11.5	6	537, 126, 510	1070	NA ⁷	1995	38
W, I, F Mt Pleasant, GA	Family 7-56	13.2	6	510, 75, 284	1794	99	1997	39
W, I, F Mt Pleasant, GA	Family 7-56	10.9	6	342, 50, 189	1794	99	1997	39
W, F Sanderson, FL	7 full-sib family+mix	13.2	5	369, 128, 121	2990	92	2000	44
W, F Waverly, GA	7 full-sib family+mix	13.9	5	369, 128, 121	2990	92	2000	44
W, F Gainesville, FL	Improved 1 st gen fam	12.2	11 [*]	360, 143, 317	1495	NA	1983	45
Medium Intensity (weed control or fertilization)								
W Bainbridge GA	Family 7-56	11.7	11	0, 0, 0	1070	86	1995	3
W (Wet) Waycross, GA	Family 7-56	9.1	15	0, 0, 0	1660	98	1987	4
W (Dry) Waycross, GA	Family 7-56	11.2	15	0, 0, 0	1660	93	1987	4
F (at planting), Waverly, GA	7 full-sib family +mix	11.5	15	50, 56, 0	2990	93	2000	44
F (at planting), Sanderson, FL	7 full-sib family +mix	8.1	5	50, 56, 0	2990	93	2000	44
Low Intensity or Experimental Controls								
W Bainbridge, GA	4 family avg	8.1	6	0, 0, 0	1070	NA	1995	38
T (Wet) Waycross, GA	Family 7-56	7.5	15	0, 0, 0	1660	98	1987	4
T (Dry) Waycross, GA	Family 7-56	8.4	15	0, 0, 0	1660	86	1987	4
T Mt Pleasant, GA	Family 7-56	7.3 ⁷	6	0, 0, 0	1794	99	1997	39
T Gainesville, FL	Improved 1 st gen fam	3.8	13	0, 0, 0	1495	NA	1983	45

^aCulture intensity notations are as follows: T = tillage used in site preparation, W=chemical weed control, I = irrigation, F = fertilization, HF = high fertilization, P = pest control.

^bLoblolly pine Family 7-26 and the 4 family average are 2nd generation selections, the 7 full-sib family + mix is 1st generation

^cYield is the mean annual increment (MAI) of the total aboveground dry weight (including foliage for softwoods) at growth curve maximum or harvest. Expansion factors were used to convert published stem dry weights to total aboveground dry weight.

^dThe stem age column optimally reports the growth year in which the planted trees reached MAI_{max} based on published growth curves. However only 1 set of results (the starred value) provided a growth curve which could be verified to reach MAI_{max}. However many of the experiments were measured to the point of being deemed near an appropriate harvest age for the initial planting density

3.2 BRIEF SUMMARY OF TREATMENT EFFECTS ON WOODY CROP YIELDS

The culture intensity levels used in the experiments described in the literature vary greatly as a function of experimental type (clone comparisons versus silviculture testing, original site conditions, species, level of genetic improvement, and choice of fertilizer types) thus comparisons across trials is difficult. However, the yield summary tables do demonstrate some key points about the woody crop data that are currently available in the open literature.

1. High culture intensity nearly always produces higher yields than low culture intensity within a given site, but comparisons across sites can show great differences in yield with similar levels of culture intensity.
2. The importance of site quality factors (e.g. dry vs wet soils, prior nutrient status of the soil) is clearly demonstrated in some of the experimental trials summarized in these tables.
3. Achievement of high yield potential is a function of selecting high quality sites as well as the best performing genotypes for the site conditions selected.
4. The MAI_{max} point cannot yet be identified in enough locations to have confidence that regional yield potentials can be appropriately characterized based on statistical analysis of existing woody crop data.

Because of the difficulty in making valid comparisons across sites and experimental conditions, no attempt was made to statistically analyze the data as a function of culture intensity or region. The data does show, however, that yields can sometimes be very high ($> 20 \text{ Mg ha}^{-1} \text{ yr}^{-1}$) under high-intensity cultural treatments or when selected clones are matched to good site conditions. While the data summarized by the WCYP database and this report are not sufficient to confidently predict potential woody crop yields as a function of region level across the United States, it does indicate that with careful selection of clones or varieties and appropriate management practices, yields of at least $15 \text{ Mg ha}^{-1} \text{ yr}^{-1}$ can be obtained in most crop growing regions of the United States.

The Woody Crop Yield Potential Database was created with the goal of increasing awareness of what is available in the literature with respect to yield evaluations and to make that information more broadly available so that it could be used by others to conduct further analysis on woody crop yields in the United States and Canada. It is hoped that much more information will be collected and added to the database (excel spreadsheet). A link the entire database can be found on the DOE Bioenergy Knowledge Discovery Framework at the web address <https://www.bioenergykdf.net/WCYP>.

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APPENDIX A. CONVERSION FACTORS

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A.1 METRIC TO ENGLISH UNITS

Multiply	by	To Obtain
Mass		
grams (gm)	0.0353	ounces (oz)
grams (gm)	0.0022	pounds (lb)
kilograms (kg)	2.2046	pounds lb
kilograms (kg)	2205	pounds (lb)
kilograms (kg)	0.0011	tons, US or short (t)
megagrams (Mg) or metric tons or tonne (t) ^a	1.1020	tons, US or short (t)
megagrams (Mg) or metric tons or tonne (t) ^a	0.9842	tons, Imperial or long (tl)
Area		
hectares (ha)	2.4710	acres (ac)
hectares (ha)	0.0039	square miles (mi ²)
square kilometers (km ²) ^b	247.10	acres (ac)
square kilometers (km ²)	0.3861	square mile (mi ²)
square meters (m ²)	1.1960	square yards (yd ²)
square meters (m ²)	10.7639	square feet (ft ²)
square decimeter (dm ²)	15.5000	square inches (in ²)
square centimeters (cm ²)	0.1550	square inches (in ²)
square millimeters (mm ²)	0.0020	square inches (in ²)
Mass or Volume per Unit Area (crop yields and application rates)		
megagrams per hectare (Mg ha ⁻¹)	0.4461	tons (U.S.) per acre (t ac ⁻¹)
kilograms per square meter (kg m ⁻¹)	4.461	tons (U.S.) per acre (t ac ⁻¹)
kilograms per hectare (kg ha ⁻¹)	0.8922	pounds per acre (lb ac ⁻¹)
liters per hectare (l ha ⁻¹)	0.4276	quarts per acre (qt ac ⁻¹)
kilograms per square meter (kg m ⁻¹)	0.2048	pounds per square foot (lb ft ²)

^aThe proper SI unit for a metric ton or tonne is megagram (Mg) however “t” is commonly used in practice as in dt ha⁻¹ for dry ton per hectare. Writers in the United States normally use “t” for short ton as in dt ac⁻¹ for dry ton per acre and mt or MT for metric ton.

^bOne square kilometer contains 100 hectares, a square hectare is 100 meters long on each side.

Sources:

www.gordonengland.co.uk/conversion

<http://www.convert-me.com/en/convert/weight>

and the Family Farm Series Publication, “*Vegetable Crop Production*” at

http://sfp.ucdavis.edu/pubs/Family_Farm_Series/Veg/Fertilizing/appendix.html

National Institute of Standards and Technology, General Tables of Units and Measurements

<http://ts.nist.gov/ts/htdocs/230/235/owmhome.htm>

A.2 ENGLISH TO METRIC UNITS

Multiply	by	To Obtain
Mass		
ounces (oz)	28.3495	grams (gm)
pounds (lb)	0.4536	kilograms (kg)
pounds (lb)	453.6	grams (gm)
tons, US or short, (t)	907.2	kilograms (kg)
tons, US or short (t)	0.9072	megagrams (Mg) or metric tons
tons, Imperial or long (tl) ^a	1016	kilograms (kg)
tons, Imperial or long (tl) ^a	1.016	megagrams (Mg) or metric tons
Area		
acres (ac) ^b	0.4047	hectares (ha)
square mile (mi ²)	258.9990	hectares (ha)
square mile (mi ²)	2.5900	square kilometers (km ²)
square yards (yd ²)	0.8361	square meters (m ²)
square feet (ft ²)	0.0929	square meters (m ²)
square inches (in ²)	6.4516	square centimeters (cm ²)
square feet (ft ²)	929.03	square centimeters (cm ²)
Mass or Volume per Unit Area (crop yields and application rates)		
tons (U.S.) per acre (t ac ⁻¹)	2.2417	megagrams per hectare (Mg ha ⁻¹)
tons (U.S.) per acre (t ac ⁻¹)	0.2241	kilograms per square meter (kg m ⁻¹)
pounds per acre (lb ac ⁻¹)	1.121	kilograms per hectare (kg ha ⁻¹)
quarts per acre (qt ac ⁻¹)	2.338	liters per hectare (l ha ⁻¹)
pounds per square foot (lb ft ²)	4.8824	kilograms per square meter (kg m ⁻¹)

^aUS tons equal 2,000 lb; imperial or long tons equal 2,240 lb.

^bAn acre contains 43,560 square feet. If the acre is square, the length of a side is equal to the square root of 43,560 or about 208.71 feet. One square mile equals 640 acres; one acre equals 0.0015625 square miles.

Sources:

www.gordonengland.co.uk/conversion

<http://www.convert-me.com/en/convert/weight>

and the Family Farm Series Publication, "Vegetable Crop Production" at

http://sfp.ucdavis.edu/pubs/Family_Farm_Series/Veg/Fertilizing/appendix.html

National Institute of Standards and Technology, General Tables of Units and Measurements

<http://ts.nist.gov/ts/htdocs/230/235/owmhome.htm>

APPENDIX B. NUTRIENT APPLICATION RATE STANDARDIZATION

APPENDIX B. NUTRIENT APPLICATION RATE STANDARDIZATION

Step 1: Convert English fertilizer application rates to metric application rates

$$1 \text{ lb ac}^{-1} * 1.12 = \text{kg ha}^{-1}$$

Step 2: Standardize fertilizer level application rates across all experiments in database. This required determining the mass weight of elemental N, P, and K applied based on types of fertilizers used. The factors used were as follows:

- NH₄NO₃ (ammonium nitrate) = 35% N by mass
- NPK (10,10,10) = 10% of total weight for nitrogen, phosphate (P₂O₅) and potash (K₂O).
 - NH₄NO₃ (ammonium nitrate) = 35% N by mass
 - P₂O₅ consists of 57.4% oxygen and 43.6% elemental phosphorus
 - K₂O consists of 17% oxygen and 83% elemental potassium
- DAP (diammonium phosphate) = 18% Ammoniacal nitrogen and 46% available P₂O₅
 - P₂O₅ x 0.4367 = elemental phosphorus by mass
 - Thus available elemental P = 20% of DAP
- TSP (triple super phosphate) = 45% elemental phosphate by mass.
- KCL (potassium chloride) = 60% elemental potassium by mass
- Urea = 46% elemental nitrogen by mass

Information source: <http://www.ncagr.gov/agronomi/obt419.htm>.

**Table B.1. Example of conversions when multiple types of fertilizers applied in some years
(example is from Borders, Will et al. (2004)³)**

Year	NH ₄ NO ₃ kg ha ⁻¹	NPK (10-10-10)	DAP	TSP	KCL	N ^a kg ha ⁻¹	P ^a kg ha ⁻¹	K ^a kg ha ⁻¹
1	56		280		112	70	129	67.2
2	56		280		112	70	129	67.2
3	150					52.5	0	0
4	150					52.5	0	0
5	150					52.5	0	0
6	150					52.5	0	0
7	150					52.5	0	0
8	150					52.5	0	0
9	150					52.5	0	0
10	336			140		117.6	63	0
11	168	560				114.8	56	56
12	336					117.6	0	0
13	336					117.6	0	0
14	336					117.6	0	0
15	336					117.6	0	0

^aThe mass weight of elemental N, P, and K values in the fertilizer formulations given in columns 2-6 are provided below for each growth year. Example calculations for elemental NPK kg ha⁻¹ mass weight values for year 1 are as follows: N = (56 × .35) + (280 × .18) = 70, P = (280 × .46) × 0.4367 = 129, K = (112 × 0.6) = 67.2.

**APPENDIX C. EXPLANATION OF WHY SPACING AND DENSITY
VALUES WERE NOT TOTALLY STANDARDIZED ACROSS
EXPERIMENTS**

APPENDIX C. EXPLANATION OF WHY SPACING AND DENSITY VALUES WERE NOT TOTALLY STANDARDIZED ACROSS EXPERIMENTS.

Spacing and density values in the dataset require some explanation. The “spacing” values are normally reported as stated by the authors as “row x between row” spacing as metric values. The spacing values always represent the planted spacing of the trial. Those values had to be estimated when the authors provided only an approximated planting density number. If the authors reported spacing in English values, those were converted to metric values with two decimal points in the database (see table below). In most publications, however, the authors themselves had converted English unit spacing to metric unit spacing at various levels of accuracy. Sometimes it was easy to discern whether the original spacing had been in English units (such as when the metric units contained one or two decimal places), whereas at other times, it was not so easy to discern (such as when the authors used very approximate conversions). In very recent publications it appeared more likely that the original row and between-row distances had actually been measured in metric units (reflected by use of whole and half meter units).

Difficulties in standardizing tree density values resulted from the following factors.

1. Some investigators approximated spacing and density values much more loosely than others.
2. Some authors described a given experiment in approximated English units in one publication but in approximated metric units in another publication—thus it was difficult to be sure of the spacing at planting.
3. Some authors reported initial density values that did not agree (according to our calculations) with the reported spacing values, but because the initial density values were used in tables and graphs the Woody Crop Yield Potential (WCYP) Database retained those published values.
4. Imprecise or rounded spacing values converted to density values are only approximations.

Because there are several different approaches to approximating planted tree density per unit area, the WCYP dataset values for density are rarely exactly the same as the published density values. Below are some of the rules followed in determining the numbers entered in the WCYP database for spacing and density.

1. Planting density numbers were based directly on the author’s statement of density only when planting spacing was not given or when the stated density was used in graphics or tables as a basis for showing density changes (mortality) (e.g., Samuelson et al., 2008).
2. When English unit spacing values were provided (e.g., 8 ft × 8 ft), the default calculation was to first calculate density based on English spacing units (e.g., 681 trees ac⁻¹) then convert that value to a metric density (681 trees ac⁻¹ × 2.471 ac ha⁻¹). The resultant value of 1,682 trees ha⁻¹ would be used in the WCYP database.
3. When metric unit spacing values were provided (e.g., 2.4 × 2.4 m) and no density values were provided by the author, then the default calculation approach was to use the given metric numbers as the basis for calculating trees per hectare (which at 2.4 × 2.4 m results in a calculated estimate of 1,736 trees ha⁻¹).
4. When it seemed obvious that the author’s spacing values (e.g., 2.4 × 2.4) were converted from English unit spacing values, then the WCYP database density value tree density was calculated from the presumed original English units (most likely 8 ft × 8 ft in this case), thus resulting in the estimate

of 1,682 trees/ha in example 2). This approach results in an estimated decrease of 54 trees/ha or about 3.1% less than the value calculated based on 2.4×2.4 m spacing.

5. When it was not possible to know whether metric or English units were used to determine planting distances, or when the authors used the exact English to metric conversion to two significant digits, then the calculated density in the WCYP database was based on the published metric unit spacing.

The differences in calculated numbers of trees per unit area are relatively minor and probably not worth getting very concerned about, but it should be noted that unless conversions are performed carefully, they do contribute to errors in overall yields per unit area. In the example given in this paragraph the authors could be overestimating yields by about 3% if they planted using English units but estimated yields using approximated metric values and by also scaling from average weight of a single tree to total weight of wood within a hectare of land.

It is worth noting that a much greater error in yield estimates is potentially being made by authors if mortality of the trees is not carefully assessed and incorporated into their yield assessments. Data on the survival (or mortality) of trees was reasonably well reported in this database though survival percentages were usually only reported for the end of the experimental observation period. In some cases, either survival (or mortality) or the change in density as a function of age was reported in graphs or tables in the publications evaluated. The Density (trees ha⁻¹) column in the Growth Pattern worksheet in the WCYP database gives the initial planting density during all years of the experimental trial with an exception for one trial where coppice stem density was reported (but not the stump density). This exception is flagged by a comment box associated with the density values. The adjacent column (Survival) provides the percentage changes in survival over time (if published).

Decisions on how to report density values were just one of the many judgments required during the compilation of the WCYP dataset. The decisions made by this author were based on an in-depth knowledge of the woody crop experimental trials and assumptions about how the database might be used.

REFERENCE

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