Project Report No. 50, Site Index Equations for Loblolly and Slash Pine Plantations in East Texas, Update: Fall 1996

Chris Bergt
Stephen F. Austin State University

Chris Edmonson
Stephen F. Austin State University

Jason Gibson
Stephen F. Austin State University

Robert Hactel
Stephen F. Austin State University

John Hamilton
Stephen F. Austin State University

See next page for additional authors
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Authors
Chris Bergt, Chris Edmonson, Jason Gibson, Robert Hactel, John Hamilton, Michael Hasagama, Justin Jordan, David Leary, Clif Motheral, Nathan Smith, Jason Wallace, and Steven Wright

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Site Index Equations for Loblolly and Slash Pine Plantations in East Texas

Update: Fall 1996

by

Chris Bergt, Chris Edmonson, Jason Gibson, Robert Hactel, John Hamilton, Michael Hasagama, Justin Jordan, David Leary, Clif Motheral, Nathan Smith, Jason Wallace, Steven Wright

(all of whom were FOR 317 students Fall '96)

REPORT 50

From the

East Texas Pine Plantation Research Project
Arthur Temple College of Forestry
SFASU
Nacogdoches, TX 75962

November ... 1996
Site index prediction equations for loblolly (Pinus taeda L.) and slash (Pinus elliottii Engelm.) pine plantations in East Texas have been previously developed and published by:


Each published set of equations was developed from analyses of East Texas Pine Plantation Research Project (ETPPRP) data collected from the array of ETPPRP permanent research plots located throughout East Texas.

Since the ETPPRP plots are measured on a 3-year cycle, the number of age-height pairs available for site index analysis is increasing:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Loblolly</th>
<th>Slash</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1986</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>608</td>
<td>264</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>653</td>
<td>296</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>1,428</td>
<td>630</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>1,520</td>
<td>658</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This update utilizes height-age pairs measured from 1982 - 1996. As a result, the number of observations available for analysis is 1,607 loblolly and 722 slash.

It is anticipated that the equations in this Fall 1996 update may quantify the productivity of East Texas loblolly and slash pine plantations in a more accurate and reliable manner than the five previous sets of equations.
PLANTATION MEASUREMENTS

Each ETPRP plot consists of two subplots separated by a 60' buffer zone. An experimental design of this manner provides the opportunity to:

- Evaluate models in an independent manner.
- Explore effects of different treatments.
- Investigate regression models.

As was the practice in the two previous site index analyses, each subplot was considered a separate sampling unit in this Fall 1996 study.

The characteristics of the 1,607 loblolly pine and 722 slash pine observations at least one year old and one foot in height that were utilized in this study can be summarized as:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plantation Plantation Site Index</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>Height</td>
<td>In feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Average</td>
<td>of tallest trees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of</td>
<td>in feet</td>
<td>in an area of interest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years</td>
<td>Since Planting</td>
<td>(H)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Since Planting</td>
<td>(H)</td>
<td>(S)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(A)</td>
<td>(H)</td>
<td>(S)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOBLOLLY...</td>
<td>Mean = 36.4 ft.</td>
<td>Mean = 36.4 ft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean = 10.9 yrs.</td>
<td>Range = 2 - 100 ft.</td>
<td>Range = 2 - 89 ft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Range = 1 - 27 yrs</td>
<td>SLASH...</td>
<td>Mean = 35.8 ft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean = 10.7 yrs.</td>
<td>Range = 1 - 26 yrs.</td>
<td>Mean = 74.8 ft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Range = 2 - 89 ft.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Range = 15 - 132</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PREDICTING HEIGHT

The same height prediction function used in 1986, 1993, 1994, 1995 and 1996 was utilized in this Fall 1996 update. As a result of fitting the Richards' function, using non-linear regression analysis, to the age and height pairs, height can be estimated as:

LOBLOLLY

\[ H = 81.27099 \left( 1 - \exp(-0.09509(A)) \right)^{1.69251} \]  

SLASH

\[ H = 113.71600 \left( 1 - \exp(-0.05151(A)) \right)^{1.31033} \]

A residual analysis of equations (1) and (2) compared the predicted and observed heights for the evaluation subplot data sets and indicated no bias or adverse trends for either species.

PREDICTING SITE INDEX

Using procedures from the five previous papers, the height estimation or guide curves (1) and (2) were converted into equations to estimate site index with index age = 25 years as:

LOBLOLLY

\[ S = H \left( 0.90719 \left/ \left( 1 - \exp(-0.09509(A)) \right) \right. \right)^{1.69251} \]  

SLASH

\[ S = H \left( 0.72411 \left/ \left( 1 - \exp(-0.05151(A)) \right) \right. \right)^{1.31033} \]

Equations (3) and (4) were rearranged to estimate H for a given A and S, and anamorphic site index curves were developed for each species (last two pages in this update).
SITE INDEX CURVES
FOR LOBLOLLY PINE PLANTATIONS
IN EAST TEXAS BASE AGE 25 YEARS.

PLANTATION AGE-YEARS

AVERAGE HEIGHT OF TEN TALLEST TREES - FEET

SITE INDEX FOR INDEX AGE 25 (FEET)

90
80
70
60
50
SITE INDEX CURVES
FOR SLASH PINE PLANTATIONS
IN EAST TEXAS BASE AGE 25 YEARS.