

PERFORMANCE OF SWEETGUM VARIETIES ON UPLAND SITES
IN NORTH LOUISIANA

Joshua P. Adams¹, Robert Hane¹, Michael Blazier², Curtis Vanderschaaf¹, Eric McConnell¹

¹School of Agricultural Sciences and Forestry, Louisiana Tech University, Ruston, LA; ²School of Renewable Natural Resources, LSU Agricultural Center, Homer, LA 71040

Hybrid sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua x formosana*) has shown remarkable growth rates through the first few years of growth relative to native sweetgum (*L. styraciflua*). In 2015, alongside a genotype trial at two sites in North Louisiana- Homer, LA (LSU Hill Farm Research Station) and Ruston, LA (Louisiana Tech University)- five sweetgum genotypes were also planted in a herbicide trial. Genotypes consisted of four elite commercially-available hybrid clones, a fifth additional clone not commercially-available, and two superior native sweetgum full-sibling families. Families were planted in eight-tree strip-plots within a randomly assigned herbicide main plot treatment. After two years of monitoring the effect of herbicide treatments, half of the trees in each subplot were cut down and allowed to resprout. First-year results indicate successful coppicing of the hybrid, and growth potential of these hybrid sweetgum will be reported after the first year of growth.