



Cone and Seed Improvement Program BCMoF Tree Seed Centre

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Nursery Germination Comparisons

During the past three sowing seasons [1993, 94, 95] nurseries have provided information on the germination capacity of 324 sowing requests in the nursery. This note is intended to extend this information to all nurseries and solicit feedback on the program. The comparison of nursery germination versus the latest Lab germination [on SPAR] is presented in Figure 1 with the diagonal line representing a perfect relationship [Lab GC = Nursery GC]. While the germination of most sowing requests fall close to the line there are more data points which show lab germination to be greater than nursery germination appearing to the right of the diagonal [nursery falldowns]. The relationship between germination just before shipping (Quality Assurance Testing) and nursery germination was similar, but only the latest TSC lab germination is included, as it is more pertinent to the nursery.

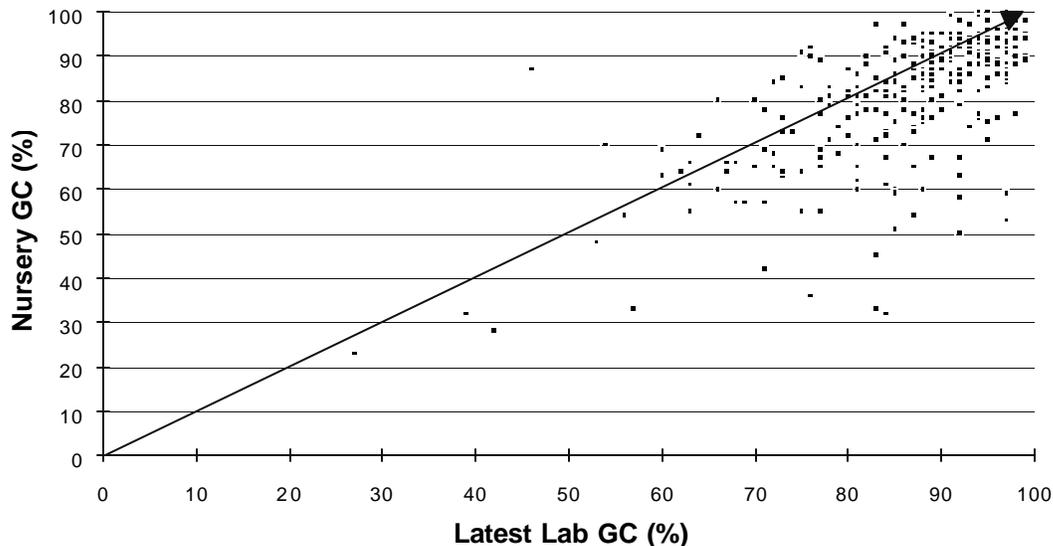


Figure 1. Germination Capacity (GC) of seedlots latest GC versus GC of sowing requests at the nursery.

The data resulting from this program has several constraints, but I feel it is useful in providing information on nursery performance, estimating average species falldowns and assessing priorities for seed research. It is the best information we have on a provincial basis for nursery performance versus lab data. I feel that the issue of quantifying nursery falldowns is important and hopefully each nursery is conducting a similar comparison to improve the efficiency of their sowing program. The average species falldowns by species is illustrated in Table 1.

Table 1. The average nursery germination falldown, by species.

Species	# Requests	Lab GC	Nursery GC	Falldown
Ba	4	68	58	11
Bg	5	78	58	20
Bl	12	70	57	14
Cw	19	85	80	5
Fdc	18	92	88	4
Fdi	34	90	89	1
Hm	9	90	87	3
Hw	12	90	88	2
Lw	36	85	72	13
Plc	15	90	91	-1
Pli	32	94	90	3
Pw	9	77	78	-1
Py	22	86	80	6
SS	11	96	90	6
Sx	75	85	85	0
SxS	11	85	87	-2

Comments from nurseries on the usefulness of these comparisons have ranged from a desire to have the program expanded to include rate of germination with standard counting methods to being of no relevance to their operations. I would appreciate your comments on this program. Thank you.

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