

## Natural Pruning Varying with Sweetgum Variety and Density

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A sweetgum (*Liquidambar spp.*) genotype study was planted at two sites in Louisiana in the winter of 2015-2016. Two taxa, including six total genotypes, were planted including the native sweetgum, *L. styraciflua*, and a hybrid, *L. styraciflua x formosana*, in 25-tree block plots and have been measured for diameter and height each year. Crown closure appeared to begin during the mid-fourth year in those blocks that had near complete survival and growth under competition stresses has been occurring for at least three full years in most cases. Overall the hybrids grew faster and thus had a greater stocking than the native counterparts prior to crown closure. Gains of over 50% in dbh have been observed when using the best hybrids and genotype ranks are stable across sites. We will further explore the growth trajectories of the genotypes now that there are three years post crown closure.