

The Comparisons Between Root Collar Diameter and Height Growth of Black Pine (*Pinus nigra* Arnold.) and Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris* L.) Seedlings in Bolu Forest Nursery

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Abstract

In this study, root collar diameter and height growth of bare rooted and containerized Black pine seedlings at 1+0 and 2+0 ages were statistically compared to Scots pine seedlings in Bolu forest nursery. Root collar diameters and height growths of 240 seedlings were measured. The obtained data were compared via "Student's t – test". Results show that containerized seedlings of both Black pine and Scots pine had a better root collar diameter and height growth than the bare rooted seedlings. Black pine seedlings had a better growth of both collar diameter and height growth than Scots pine for both containerized and bare rooted seedlings. Thus, containerized seedlings could be used for plantation. Black pine could be preferred rather than Scots pine in areas which have similar climatic and edaphic conditions of the sample area.

Key words: Black Pine, Scots pine, Bolu, Forest Nursery

INTRODUCTION

Recent studies have indicated that the amount of the forest land defined in Turkey as 20.7 million hectares [1]. Nearly half of this land is degraded forest areas that require reforestation, erosion control, pasture improving practices to be applied. According to the inventory studies, it was reported that intensive cultural practices could be applied in 1.5 million hectares for fast growing species plantation [2]. The total area in the forest regime and subject to the reforestation is 3.8 million hectare. On the other hand, it is stated that total areas which is within and outside the forest regime and needs reforestation nowadays is approximately 18 million hectares and 11-12 million hectares of this area application is possible [3].

While the rapid increase in population continues, the decrease of forest lands will increase the demand for wood in the future [4]. Other than preserving natural forest, in today's afforestation service has various functions such as establishing the natural balance, soil protection, serving the healthy survival possibilities and recreation goals gain importance as well as wood production [5]. It can be found out years later whether afforestation reached its goal or not, and it's impossible to meet efforts and financial loss. So in order to guarantee the level of success, afforestation should be based on scientific techniques. [6].

Nurseries are places which are responsible for producing seedlings constantly and economically whose adaptation ability to the conditions of growing up in main planting areas and relatedly seedling survival and development rates are high [7].

There are plenty of international and national studies on the morphological traits and quality criteria of seedlings of broadleaved and coniferous forest tree species [8-19]. Generally, the afforestation values of seedlings are measured with the quality of seedlings [20]. While evaluating the seedling quality some morphological criteria such as stratum, robust index, quality index, height, root collar diameter, seedling dry weight, root percentage and physiological criteria and some physiological criteria such as root regeneration potential, plant water capacity, root growth potential are used [21-24], however, currently the TSI (Turkish Standards Institute) norms are used in forest nursery practice in Turkey.

Demircioğlu *et al.* [25] have determined the appropriateness of bare rooted Scots pine seedlings at the age of 2+0 grown in Kastamonu-Taşköprü Forest Nursery to both TSI standards and the quality classes they have newly established by using their morphological character.

Genç *et al.* [26] have examined the quality features such as seedlings height, root collar diameter and shoot/root ratio of Black pine seedlings from 9 different origins at the age of 2+0 grown in Eskişehir, Eğirdir and Seydişehir Forest Nurseries.

In a study carried out in Kastamonu-Taşköprü Forest Nursery the morphological differences and TSI appropriateness of Black pine seedlings at the age of 2+0 produced from four different origins have been examined according to origin [27].

Üçler *et al.* [28] have determined the distribution of 2+0 year-old seedling grown in Eğirdir Forest Nursery to seedling quality classes by evaluating them according to TSI norms according to the seeds collected from 24 good phenotyped and normal families of Black and Calabrian pine natural stands in Burdur-Ağlasun region.

Gezer et al. [29] have examined the distribution of the seedlings which were originated from the seeds supplied from

3 foreign, 27 native seed sources within the natural expansion borders of Scots pine, according to TSI seedling quality criteria.

11.2 Million hectares of the existing forest lands in Turkey consist of coniferous species. The land that Scots pine forests cover is 757.426 hectares [30]. Its horizontal distribution in Turkey begins from the southeastern part of Marmara Region at Orhaneli thru the southern side of the mountains standing parallel to Black Sea as pure or mixed stands with Oriental Spruce (*Picea orientalis* L. Carr.) and fir (*Abies* sp.); constitutes mostly pure, large forests pure in Bolu or mixed with oriental beech (*Fagus orientalis* Lipsky.) and Bornmüller's fir (*Abies bornmülleriana* Mattf.); and large, pure forests stands in Northeast Anatolia; Ardahan, Oltu, Posof and Sarıkamış. The vertical distribution of this wide distribution is quite variable. It is down to sea share in the eastern Black Sea Region, around 700 m in Çoruh, and it constitutes normal canopy forests around Sarıkamış even at 2700 m.

Black pine has got its widest distribution (2.5 million hectares) in Turkey. It constitutes pure or mixed forests in the mountainous parts of all our coastal regions, even goes into steppe. It constitutes forest stands which are pure or mixed with Calabrian pine (*Pinus brutia* Ten.), Scots pine, Lebanon cedar (*Cedrus libani* A.Rich.), juniper (*Juniperus* sp.), oriental beech and oak (*Quercus* sp.) species on the inward slopes of North Anatolian mountains, on the northern slopes of the Western and southern Anatolia. It surrounds the costal areas of Middle and Western Black Sea, Marmara, Aegean and Mediterranean Regions and goes into Central Anatolian steppe. Thus, it may grow naturally in all our geographical regions except Eastern and Southeastern Anatolia. Its vertical distribution is between 1200-2100 m. This is due to the fact that it can grow in places where Scots pine cannot [31-33].

This study has been carried out to compare the root collar diameter and height growth of containerized and bare rooted seedlings of Black pine and Scots pine seedlings in Bolu Forest Nursery.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The study area

The Nursery Directorate is on Bolu-Karacasu asphalt between Büyükberk and Küçükberk villages dependent on Bolu center; between 40° 44' northern latitudes and 31° 36' eastern longitudes in Western Black Sea Region. The nursery is 2,5 km far from the city center. The elevation of the region is 725 m and its general aspect is in East-West course [34].

According to the data received from Bolu meteorology station which is at 747 m altitude, the average annual temperature is 10,2 °C, the minimum temperature is -4,2 °C (January), the maximum average temperature 27,5 °C (August) and average annual precipitation is 536,4 mm. Vegetation period at area is between May (13,8 °C)-October (11,5 °C) and totally 6 months. The precipitation amount during the vegetation period is 225,7 mm; the fastest wind direction is SW with a speed of 1,8m/sn is in March [35]. When the meteorological data is evaluated according to Thornthwaite method, it has been determined that the area has a climate that is indicated with C_1B_1 wb₃' symbols which means a location "shows close features to oceanic climate that is dry-little dampy mezothermal and has a medium level water shortage in winter" (Table 1, Figure 1).

The land on which the nursery was established is plain and is young alluvial soil with azonal character which has not formed an exact profile. Nursery's soil consists of a heavy texture such as soil rich in clay, muddy clay, sandy muddy clay, dry and with pale brown dark color.

The reaction of soil (pH) is about 7.5 and it is semi-alkali. Lime rate in the soil is between 9,4–13,5 and it's rich in lime. Its organic substance rate is about 1.5%. Total nitrogen level (%) is low due to the organic substances. Phosphorus levels change between 101–424 kg/ha and all plots are rich in phosphorus. There is no detrimental salt problem in the soil [34].

Element of	MONTHS												
Balance	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Mean
Temperature (°C)	0,3	1,6	4,4	9,4	13,8	17,0	19,4	19,5	15,8	11,5	6,9	2,7	10,2
Temperature Index	0,01	2,18	0,82	2,60	4,65	6,38	7,79	7,85	5,71	3,53	1,63	0,39	41,54
Uncorrected PE (mm)	1,28	5,66	18,60	40,70	60,20	82,50	92,70	92,90	73,75	41,42	28,46	10,70	
Corrected PE (mm)	1,08	4,70	19,16	44,48	74,65	103,13	117,73	109,62	76,70	39,76	23,62	8,66	623,29
Precipitation (mm)	58,2	47,8	47,2	48,9	58,5	52,2	27,3	21,5	29,0	37,2	47,7	60,9	536,4
Store Alteration (mm)	23,68	0	0	0	-16,15	-50,93	32,92	0	0	0	24,08	52,24	
To store (mm)	100	100	0	100	83,85	32,92	0	0	0	0	24,08	76,32	
Actual Ev-Tr (mm)	1,08	4,70	19,16	44,48	74,65	103,13	60,20	21,5	29,00	37,20	23,62	8,66	427,38
Water absent (mm)	0	0	0	0	0	0	57,53	88,12	47,70	2,56	0	0	195,91
Extra Water (mm)	33,46	43,10	28,04	4,42	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	109,02
Surface flow (mm)	19,73	29,92	28,98	16,69	8,35	4,17	2,08	1,04	0,52	0,26	0,13	0,66	109,02

Table 1. Water balance of study area



Figure 1. Water balance graphic of study area

Data collection and analyses

In the Bolu Nursery, randomly 30 bare rooted and containerized Black and Scots pine seedlings (a total of 240 seedlings) at the age of 1+0 and 2+0 have been taken.

The measurement of seedling height from root collar level to the level where the terminal bud connects to the bole at 1 mm sensitivity, and root collar diameters were measured at 0.01 mm sensitivity. Descriptive statistics for the obtained height and root collar diameter data have been calculated and Student's t-test was applied for the evaluation of height and root collar diameter data of Black and Scots pine seedlings at various ages.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results of the statistical tests for evaluation of root collar diameter and height growth of both Scots and Black pine were given in Table 2-4.

Table 2 shows that there were not any significant difference between height growths of both Black and Scots pine at 2+0age (p>0.05), and Black pine seedlings have a better growth of root collar diameter and height growth than Scots pine at 1+0 age, where as the Black pine seedlings have only a better growth of root collar growth than Scots pine seedlings at 2+0 age (p<0.05).

According to Table 3; there was a significant difference of both root collar diameter and height growth between Black and Scots pine seedlings at both 1+0 and 2+0 ages in favor of Black pine (P<0,05).

Table 4 shows that there was a significant difference of both root collar diameter and height growth between Black and Scots pine seedlings at both 1+0 and 2+0 ages (P<0,05).

It's reported that over the last two decades in England most of the nurseries have been established on sandy or muddy sandy soil of which clay rate is at most 15% [36]. At the same time, the soil of the seedlings which does not contain clay, can create a great growth environment after addition of compost and other organic manures. The soil of this type of nurseries generally has acidic reaction that do not cause any problem about grass and successful and fertile seedlings can be grown on them [5]. Bolu Forest Nursery is rich in clay, so it's problematic about grass and that is why intense care measures are applied. Although it is an ideal situation for nurseries that the soil is quite light texture soil, soils of the study area consist of heavy soils. For nursery soil that will produce coniferous seedlings, it is ideal for dust and clay content to be between 10-25% and in muddy sand and sandy mud texture; for deciduous species it is ideal that this amount is up to 35% and in sandy mud with clay [37]. These values considered it can be said that the soil of the nursery concerned has appropriate conditions for the deciduous species than coniferous species.

Generally, the suitable soil reaction is 5.0-5.5 pH in production of coniferous seedlings which show the intense acid rate [38]. In Bolu Forest Nursery, soil reaction is medium alkali and about 7.5 pH. That is why the nursery in questions has unsuitable pH value for the production of coniferous species seedlings. The suitable pH levels for Black pine and Scots pine are between 4.5-6.0 [39].

In fertile seedling growth, it is desired that the organic substance amount of the nursery soil should be at least 2% on the upper soil particularly in 0-15 cm depth [5]. The organic substance rate in the research area is 1.5% and it is below the desired rate.

Table 2. Student's t-test results of species compare at bare rooted seedlings

Compared Feature	Age	Species	N	df	X _{min}	X _{max}	X	S ²	t	Р
l î	1+0	Black pine	30	50	3,20	4,10	3,86	0,049	2 001	0.000*
Collar ter (mm)	1+0	Scots pine	30	58	2,76	3,22	2,97	0,019	2,001	0,000*
Root Co Diameter	2+0	Black pine	30	50	4,10	5,85	4,90	0,252	2 001	0.000*
Dia	2+0	Scots pine	30	58	2,95	4,90	4,04	0,233	2,001	0,000*
(i	1+0	Black pine	30	40	8,20	9,90	9,19	0,247	2.016	0.002*
t (cn	1+0	Scots pine	30	30 48	8,10	9,30	8,85	0,091	2,016	0,002*
Height (cm)	2+0	Black pine	30	50	9,80	13,20	11,75	1,125	2 001	0.026ns
H	2+0	Scots pine	30	58	9,20	13,90	11,73	1,410	2,001	0,936 ^{ns}

(P<0.05, 5% significant to confidence level) ^{ns}(P>0.05, 5% insignificant to confidence level)

Compared Feature	Age	Species	N	df	X _{min}	X _{max}	X	S ²	t	Р
lar sr	1+0	Black pine	30	55	3,20	4,90	4,21	0,133	2,004	0,000*
ot Colliamete (mm)	1+0	Scots pine	30	55	3,00	4,20	3,78	0,220	2,004	0,000
Root Collar Diameter (mm)	2+0	Black pine	30	58	5,00	6,80	5,85	0,297	2,001	0,000*
D D	2+0	Scots pine	30	38	4,20	5,90	5,19	0,220	2,001	0,000
() E	1+0	Black pine	30	58	9,20	11,0	10,15	0,294	2,001	0,000*
t (c	1+0	Scots pine	30	50	8,20	8,60	9,39	0,408	2,001	0,000
Height (cm)	2+0	Black pine	30	36	14,0	20,0	16,51	2,492	2,028	0,000*
He	2+0	Scots pine	30	50	12,0	14,0	11,73	0,299	2,028	0,000

Table 3. Student's t-test results of species compared at containerized seedlings

* (P<0.05, 5% significant to confidence level)

Table 4. Student's t-test results of compared bare rooted and containerized seedlings to species

Compared Feature	Age	Species	Type of seedling	N	df	X _{min}	X _{max}	X	S ²	t	Р
1	1+0		Bare rooted	30	10	3,20	4,10	3,86	0,049		0.000*
Root Collar Diameter (mm)	1+0	1	Containerized	30	48	3,20	4,90	4,21	0,133	2,010	0,000*
oot Col iamet (mm)	2+0	e	Bare rooted	30	50	4,10	5,85	4,90	0,253	2,001	0,000*
D	2+0	pine	Containerized	30	58	5,00	6,80	5,84	0,298		
Height (cm)	1+0	Black	Bare rooted	30	- 58	8,20	9,90	9,19	0,247	2,001	0,000*
	1+0		Containerized	30		9,20	11,40	10,15	0,294		
	2+0		Bare rooted	30	36	9,80	13,20	11,73	1,125	2,028	0,000*
He	2+0		Containerized	30		14,00	20,20	16,51	2,492		
ar r	1+0		Bare rooted	30	- 34	2,76	3,22	2,97	0,019	2,032	0,000*
Root Collar Diameter (mm)	1+0		Containerized	30	54	3,00	4,70	3,79	0,200	2,032	0,000
ian jian	2+0	e	Bare rooted	30	58	2,95	4,90	4,04	0,233	2,001	0,000*
D Re	2+0	pine	Containerized	30	50	4,20	5,90	5,19	0,220		
Height (cm)	1+0	Scots]	Bare rooted	30	41	8,10	9,30	8,85	0,090	2,019	0,000*
	1+0	S	Containerized	30	41	8,20	10,60	9,39	0,408		
ligh	1+0]	Bare rooted	30	41	9,20	13,90	11,73	1,410	2.010	0.000*
H	2+0 Containerized 3	30) 41	12,60	14,30	13,52	0,298	2,019	0,000*		

(P<0.05, 5% significant to confidence level)

In the study area, it is thought that texture, pH and organic substance rates mentioned above have been effective in better development in root collar diameter and height growth of both containerized and bare rooted Black and Scots pine seedlings at the same age groups in favor of Black pine.

CONCLUSION

In the afforestation studies carried out in some of the provinces and villages of Bolu, Black pine and Scots pine seedlings are being used and seedlings are supplied from Bolu Forest Nursery.

As a result of this study, it has been found that Black pine seedling in seedbed and container showed a better root collar diameter and height growth than Scots pine seedlings, and both containerized Black and Scots pine seedlings showed better growth than bare rooted seedlings of Black and Scots pine. In the nursery; it is thought that any kind of work to improve the physical features of the soil with heavy content, addition of a sufficient amount of stream sand with no salt, organic substance and peat to the plots, application of chemical manure to the plots of land which have insufficient nitrogen and are rich in phosphorus during the vegetations period, application of phosphoric acid and nitric acid to the pool in order to reduce the pH of settled water will increase the quality of seedlings especially the ones with bare rooted.

Higher pH rates make the intake of nitrogen and phosphorus which play a positive role in the growth of seedlings hard and in this sense, weakens their endurance to drought [39]. As the pH of Bolu Forest Nursery is not suitable for coniferous seedling growth, and it should not be ignored that bringing pH to suitable conditions for these species will increase the quality and use of the seedlings grown.

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