

1 Title Invest now, get paid/returns later? Growth strategies to 2 cope with environmental stress and benefit from extended 3 growing seasons in a future climate

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5 February 17, 2024

6 Abstract

7 Although plants grow throughout their lifetime, the timing of growth activities within a growing season varies considerably across species. In the case of the primary meristem responsible for extension
8 growth, most tree species in all biomes preform a considerable amount if not all of the tissue inside
9 buds that will get deployed quickly after passing a state of rest/dormancy (determinate growth). This
10 strategy is contrasted to various extend/degree by species which continue to generate new tissue during
11 the current growing season (neoformed tissue, indeterminate growth). The implication of such growth
12 habits has rarely been examined in the context of climate change, particularly given the increasing
13 frequency of extreme weather events and extensions of the climatic growing season. Here, I shed light
14 on existing concepts of shoot extension phenology and debate which growth strategy may provide an
15 evolutionary advantage. I propose that 1) determinate species may be more resistant and resilient to
16 environmental stressors (e.g. drought) and 2) the higher the degree of indeterminacy in a species, the
17 greater its capacity/potential to profit from extended growing seasons. Consequently, the question of
18 how much carbon will be sequestered in a future climate might depend not only on abiotic factors
19 like water availability, temperature extremes and the length of the growing season, but also on the
20 degree of determinacy set by a species' intrinsic genetic programming. The accuracy of models predict-
21 ing future carbon uptake by vegetation could be significantly improved by incorporating these traits
22 which define a plant community's potential to respond to extended growing seasons in a specific region.
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25 Introduction

26 The further one travels from the equator towards the poles, the tighter plants are confined to a shrinking
27 'time window of opportunity' set by low temperatures (frost) and water restrictions (drought). While
28 annual plant species accommodate their entire life cycle within this period, seasonal climates urge
29 perennials to split their growing phases into annual chunks with periods of activity alternating with a
30 period of rest (dormancy). This is referred to as intermittent or rhythmic (as opposed to continuous)
31 growth.

32 The concept of determinism

33 A prerequisite of such plants inhabiting regions with distinct seasons is the ability to pre-form tissue
34 as a future investment. Some species have their entire canopy build and packed in overwintering buds
35 to be 'ready to go' when spring arrives, with no additional leaves and shoots being produced over the
36 course of the growing season. This growth strategy is contrasted to various degree by species being
37 able to form new tissue on top of preformed ones, sometimes stretching their continuous production

38 until the end of the season. Although there is a wide spectrum of intermediate stages, species' growth
39 habits are commonly classified in a dichotomic way: determinate- or indeterminate growers.

40 Aims

41 Most of our understanding of growth habits or growth determinacy in trees dates back to a period
42 in the mid 1900s. The literature is sprinkled with different terms, concepts, and definitions spanning
43 the fields of genomics, physiology and ecology across the animal and plant kingdom. However, and
44 particularly for trees, the fundamental questions regarding the timing and duration of growth remain
45 and are more pressing than ever: When and how much is growth and therefore carbon sequestration
46 most impacted by climate extremes? Moreover, we must question the potentials and limits of trees to
47 adapt - are they plastic enough to extend their growing period in a climate with prolonged seasons?
48 Or are they bound to follow an internal program in which growth and development occurs within
49 narrow temporal boundaries? In this review I aim to shed light on old concepts about the ability of
50 plants to: a) preform tissue (i.e. structural growth) as a future investment that is ready to be deployed
51 in spring with sustained growth thereafter (determinate strategy) b) maintain a somewhat constant
52 growth activity by forming new tissue during the growing season (indeterminate strategy) and bridge
53 the before mentioned research disciplines by scrutinizing these concepts across various scales: from the
54 expression and regulation of specific genes and hormones that control growth-related processes to the
55 large-scale consequences on ecosystems.

57 Definitions (in a box or as a schematic figure):

58 All plants add to their primary bodies as long as they live and can therefore be considered 'indetermi-
59 nate growers' like mollusks, fish and reptiles (Ejsmond et al., 2010). However, plant physiologists use
60 this term more specifically to address when extension growth occurs.

61 Determination: The process of cells committing to a particular fate during their development. Specif-
62 ically, the point at which a cell or a cohort of cells has been set to develop into a specific tissue or
63 organ.

64 Determinism: The idea that a plant's development and characteristics are defined by its genetic pro-
65 gram shaped by its environment.

66 Determinacy: The characteristic of a plant to either stop growing after reaching a certain size or hav-
67 ing produced a certain amount of flowers/fruits or to keep growing throughout its lifetime. E.g. two
68 varieties of tomato plants that either stop growing with a fixed amount of fruits or continue to grow
69 and produce fruits as long as conditions allow it.

70 Growth habit: The genetic tendency of a plant to form a characteristic habitus (shape, height, form)
71 with a particular branching and growth pattern. determinate growth: a growth pattern characterized
72 to stop at a predefined size. Commonly, the apical bud culminates in an inflorescence, halting the pro-
73 duction of any additional leaves or buds. In trees this term specifies the short duration of extension
74 growth in spring with no further activity of the apical meristem.

75 sustained growth:

76 indeterminate growth: a growth pattern characterized by continuous growth (leaves, buds or flowers)
77 throughout their life or as long as condition remain favourable. This is possible because the apical
78 meristems always remain vegetative and flowers are restricted to lateral meristems. In trees this refers
79 to the continuous shoot elongation throughout the growing season.

80 Neogrowth: Growth that occurs on top of preformed tissue due to the more or less continuous activity
81 of the shoot apical meristem. Several forms occur depending on whether growth occurs continuously
82 or in bursts.

83 Perpetual/Continuous/free growth: the constant production of new tissue without interruptions of
84 bud stages.

85 Polycyclic growth: Growth occurs in bursts after the initiation of leaf primordia inside buds.

Second flush: Growth form of species in which one additional cohort of buds is build and deployed during the current growing season. In the German literature this is often termed 'Johannitrieb' since the flush often occurs around the summer solstice. Also 'lammas growth' is a common term for an additional flush (lammas = loaf mass; old English for the holy communion typically to celebrate the first harvest).

Across scales: from cellular to organ to whole plant level

the cellular level with omnipotent cells differentiating into specialized cells, organ levels to whole plant level (organism), annual plants dying after the season once they have flowered and produced fruits. programmed cell death as another example. Merophytes: Group of cells that are derived from one meristem. Its the basic repeatable unit or structure of a plant

Organ level: leaves, flowers and fruits grow determinately; shoot, cambium and roots grow indeterminately

Phytomers: The LEGO-Piece from which plants are build. The basic unit of the physical structure of a plant. Typically it consists of a leaf, a node, an internode and a bud. Phytomers contribute to the segmented or modular structure of plant growth.

Plant level:

Age effects ontogeny: every plant that starts from a seat grows always in indeterminant way then with age increasingly become more conservative and determinant

a common definition of determinate growth is that organisms stop growing when maturity is reached or shortly afterwards. whereas indeterminate organisms continue to grow over their lifetime.

perennial plant add to their primary bodies as long as they live.

indeterminate growth in perennials means "the iterative production of determinate units"

Internal control mechanisms of growth

A. Genes and molecular pathways

- Role of specific genes in determining shoot growth patterns

- Molecular pathways involved in controlling shoot growth

B. Hormonal regulation

- Apical dominance and its influence on shoot growth

- Role of auxin and other hormones in determining shoot growth patterns

- Physiological aspects of hormonal control in shoot growth determinism

Allocation problems: imbalances of shoot and root growth

In some cases shoot growth might come to a halt because of the demand of water cannot be met. Since above and belowground meristem experience large differences in temperature, the higher growth rate of shoots may soon result in a imbalanced root-shoot-ratio that can only be overcome by sustaining growth of the apical meristems until root growth has caught up to reach the supply capacity. High vapour pressure deficits and the resulting water transpiration or a drying soil might have the same effect. This could also explain polycyclic flushing patterns as a result of lower growth rates in roots.

This hypothesis is also supported by experimental data. Artificial reduction of leaf area caused terminal buds to keep growing until leaf area was re-established. Is there a different strategy in allocation to roots or shoots tissues depending or associated with a species degree of determinism of a species. In other words is the imbalance of root to shoot ratios caused by environmental differences or by an internal program regardless of environmental conditions.

External control mechanisms of growth

- Influence of temperature, water availability, vapor pressure deficit and nutrient availability on shoot growth patterns

Sink source relationships

temporal separation of growth investments (sink activity) from their returns when deployed (source activity).

Growth Transitions

Switch from growth acquisition to maturation and reproduction as well as preparing for winter and storage

External control mechanisms of growth

- Influence of temperature, water availability, vapor pressure deficit and nutrient availability on shoot growth patterns

Evolutionary perspectives

Patterns of shoot elongation determines the timing of a fully developed canopy
The reason of differences in determinism or shoot elongation patterns is to launch the photosynthesis apparatus/capacity at once (determinate strategy) with an inevitable decline as leaves age or to spread resources more steadily across the growing season increasing the canopy area or replacing losses (indeterminate strategy). So when is the best time to display the leaves? And what are the trade-offs involved? Flushing early in spring might extend the growing season benefiting from early accessible resources (water, nutrients, light). However, at this time of the year spring frost damages represent a risk and are particularly costly if most of the leaf area is invested at once. This is probably why determinate growing species are often among the latest flushing species. Indeterminate species can quickly compensate for losses while benefiting in some favourable years.

Herbivory: A continuous production of leaves compensates for herbivory losses. Moreover, timing leaf emergence in bursts can reduce the population of leaf consuming insects. cost of indeterminate growth: they keep producing until the last cohort of leaves are hit by frost with potential losses in nutrients. Constant ideal conditions in the tropics only a few species perform constant growth in this ideal growing conditions most of the trees still accept it bursts of growth this might be an adaptation to parasites and heavy voice to reduce available food sources in some years to reduce population sizes of antagonists is there a latitudinal gradient with species exhibiting a more deterministic strategy the same trends could also be seen along a continentality gradient. With ecosystems on the oceanic range consisting mostly species with indeterminate strategies and on the continental extreme ecosystems harbouring mostly species with a determinate strategy

Phylogenetic questions: Is indeterminate growth the original/older strategy?

The role of determinism with climate change

Increased environmental stress

Stressors such as drought and frost can disrupt the phenological cycle of a tree opening the questions which growth strategy is more plastic. can a species compensates for some stress-induced losses later in the season?

Growing season extended

what happens if the growing season extends due to climate warming? which growth strategy allows to profit most from this opening window of opportunity? This might mix competition among co-occurring species and might change species and community assemblages in the future with more indeterminate species most likely gaining ground because they might be plastic enough to fill this gap.

carbon sequestration? Productivity and longevity. which strategy allow for more carbon uptake in the long run or at least integrated over few years because of different allocations within one growing season into buds, reserves, roots etc. which strategy leads to taller or bigger structures that are durable and live longer? this will decide over the residence time of carbon in an ecosystem.