

# Invest now, get paid later? Growth strategies to cope with environmental stress and benefit from extended growing seasons in a future climate

Frederik Baumgarten<sup>1,2</sup>, Yann Vitasse<sup>2</sup>, Sally?, Rob?, EM Wolkovich<sup>1</sup>

June 25, 2024

<sup>1</sup> Department of Forest and Conservation, Faculty of Forestry, University of British Columbia, 2424 Main Mall Vancouver, BC Canada V6T 1Z4.

<sup>2</sup> Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research WSL, Zürcherstr. 111, Birmensdorf 8903, Switzerland

Corresponding Author: Frederik Baumgarten; frederik.baumgarten@ubc.ca

Journal: Perspective in Ecology Letters

## Abstract

When and how much organisms grow given environmental and other constraints are fundamental questions in biology. For plants their answers are more pressing than ever to predict biomass production and carbon sequestration in the current and future climate. Increasingly, research has uncovered the relationships between environmental drivers and plant growth, particularly the physiological effects of temperature and moisture extremes. Yet this research has also highlighted that environmental conditions are not enough to predict when a plant is growing. An often-overlooked factor appears to be the phenological sequence—the developmental stages and transitions set by the genetic programming of a plant that manifests in species-specific growth patterns. This internal schedule may be critical to predicting responses to climate change, but rarely discussed.

Here, we leverage the concept of (in-)determinism—which captures how flexible, or not, plants are in preforming and committing tissue to growth over time—to propose a new framework for predicting tree responses to climate change. We propose that: 1) determinate growth (expansion of preformed tissue) is an adaptation to predictable climates by temporally escaping from critically stressful periods. These species concentrate their primary growth between last spring frost events and water limitations in summer with ample safety margins. 2) With climate change introducing more frequent, extreme, and irregular stress conditions, species capable of forming new tissue throughout the growing season (indeterminate growth) may recover and compensate from damage more effectively. 3) Additionally, the higher the degree of indeterminacy in a species, the greater its capacity to benefit from extended growing seasons.

Consequently, the amount of carbon sequestered in future climates may depend not only on abiotic factors such as water availability, temperature extremes, and the length of the growing season, but also on the degree of determinacy set by a species' intrinsic genetic programming.

**Keywords:** plant growth, tree phenology, shoot extension, indeterminate growers, carbon sequestration, growing season length, drought, genetic programming, phenotypic plasticity

---

## 40 Introduction

41 Investing the right amount of resources at the right time is of crucial importance to the survival and  
42 fitness of any living organism. In tropical ecosystems a continued production of tissue can be both  
43 possible and advantageous, in all other regions, however, strategies that rely on growth from stored  
44 reserves and pre-build tissue are widely common.

## 45 Seasonality of temperature and soil moisture

46 The further one travels from the equator towards the poles, the tighter plants are confined to a shrink-  
47 ing ‘time window of opportunity’ set primarily by low temperatures. Below c. 5°C metabolic activity  
48 slows down to an extent where growth and development comes to a halt (Schenker *et al.*, 2014; Rossi  
49 *et al.*, 2008; Körner, 2008). More importantly, freezing temperatures can cause severe damages to  
50 plant tissue if exposed at the wrong time of development, e.g. after leaf unfolding or prior to fruit mat-  
51 uration (Sakai & Larcher, 1987; Baumgarten *et al.*, 2023). While annual plant species accommodate  
52 their entire life cycle within this window, perennial plants are forced to split their growing phase into  
53 annual chunks with periods of activity alternating with a period of rest (dormancy). This is referred  
54 to as intermittent or rhythmic (as opposed to continuous) growth.

55  
56 During the active growing season high temperatures can directly reduce plant activity and development,  
57 preventing any new growth when species-specific thresholds are exceeded (O’Sullivan *et al.*, 2017).  
58 High temperatures can also indirectly reduce or stall growth through decreasing soil moisture and thus  
59 increasing plant water stress (CITES; it would be great to get some diversified references too – any  
60 ideas for some classics? Stearns life history book?). Together, these temperature and soil moisture  
61 limitations act as ‘environmental filters’, narrowing the window of opportunity where potential growth  
62 could happen.

## 63 Internal programming of plants

64 Given our developed physiological understanding on how growth is controlled by environmental fac-  
65 tors, namely temperature and soil moisture availability, one could think that predictions about when  
66 and how much trees are growing in a current and future climate should be fairly simple to make. How-  
67 ever, this is not the case, in particular for predictions with extended climatic growing seasons (Zohner  
68 *et al.*, 2021). It seems that environmental variables alone are not sufficient to capture the dynamic and  
69 extend of biomass production and therefore carbon sequestration. Here we propose the framework for  
70 an additional factor to consider: internal growth control - the genetically fixed developmental program  
71 that can dictate not to grow *despite* favourable environmental conditions.

72  
73 While plants have evolved many mechanisms to tolerate or avoid such potentially harmful conditions  
74 by specialized morphological adaptations, most species, even in the tropics, cope with fluctuating tem-  
75 perature and moisture regimes by temporally escaping these conditions. This involves the progression  
76 of a dormancy cycle and the timing of life history events (phenology) during favourable ‘growing sea-  
77 son’ conditions, and ultimately phenological sequences that optimally balance growth and reproduction  
78 with survival for long-lived organisms. These sequences can impose abrupt switches in resource allo-  
79 cation from vegetative growth to reproduction (flowering, fruit maturation) and storage (REF, Figure  
80 1 that act as internal filters to narrow the window in which growth can occur.

## 82 The concept of (in)determinate growth

83 The topic of growth strategies and habits has a long history in science, spanning the fields of ge-  
84 nomics, physiology and ecology across the animal and plant kingdoms. At its core lays the concept of

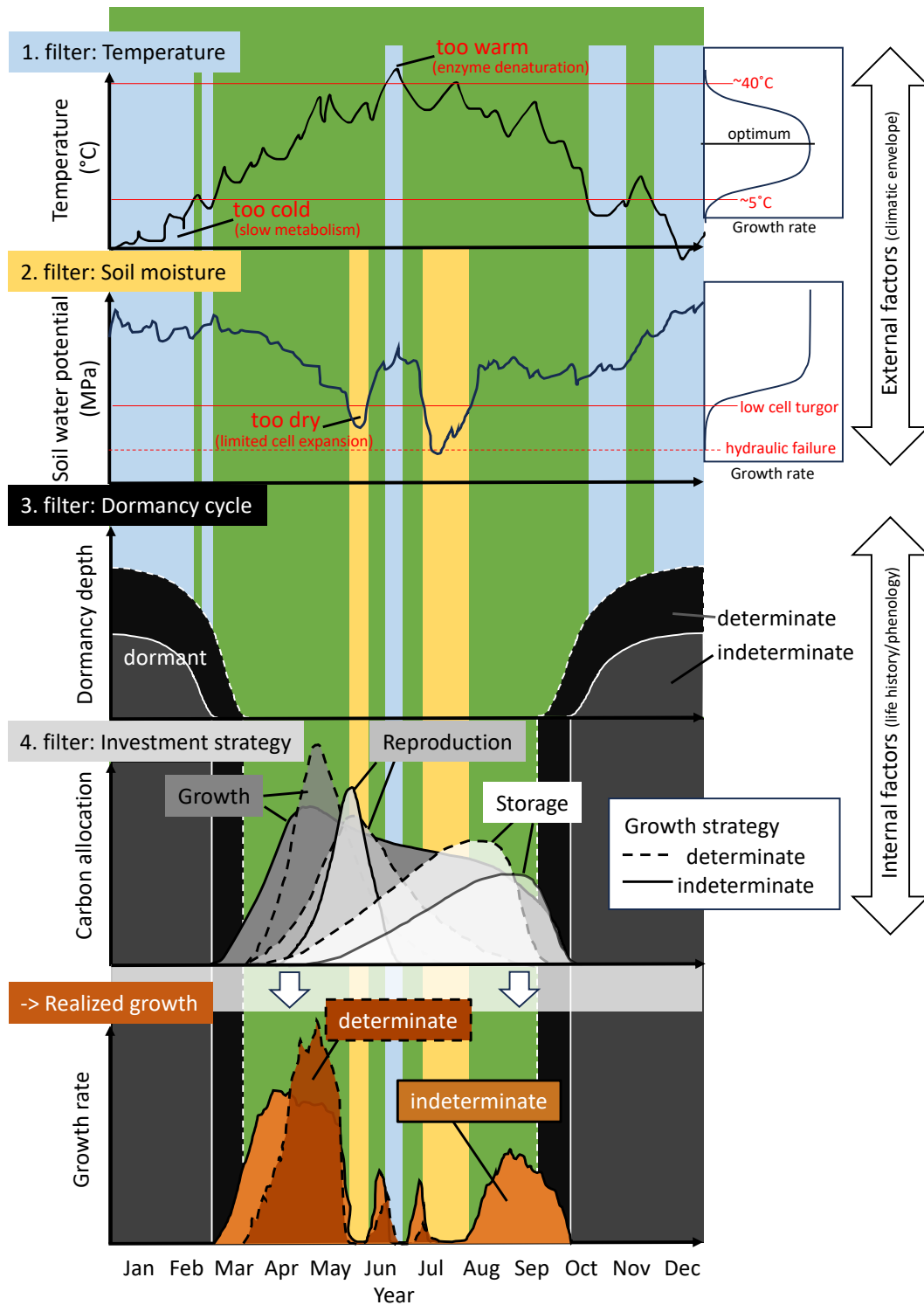


Figure 1: Schematic overview of the discrepancy between the potential growing season and the effectively realized vegetative growth. Environmental factors like temperature and soil moisture, exceeding growth-promoting thresholds can be seen as filters that narrow the window of opportunity available for vegetative growth. The species-specific life history cycle (phenology) can further impose another filter by imposing a dormancy cycle and prioritizing developmental processes other than vegetative growth (e.g. flowering, fruit maturation and storage).

determinacy—the classification of organisms to either reach a fixed size with adulthood or to continue to grow throughout their lifetime. Like mollusks, fish and reptiles, plants add to their primary bodies as long as they live and are therefore considered ‘indeterminate growers’ (Ejzmond *et al.*, 2010). Various terms emerged to describe this fundamental phenomenon at different spacial and temporal scales, e.g. from a cell to an organism and from a season to a whole lifetime (McDaniel, 1992; Karkach, 2006).

In annual plants, growth ends with the production of flowers to form fruits and seeds: a signal in the apical meristem causes a sudden switch in resource investment from vegetative growth to building a reproductive structure with no point of return, ringing in the end of its life-cycle. In contrast, most perennial plant species and trees in particular, build flowers on lateral buds to enable the seasonal production of offsprings while the vegetative structure keeps expanding.

Within one growing season, however, trees exhibit a strategy of determinacy (see Figure 2): Commonly, trees prebuild their new shoot increments in the previous year, overwintering in hardened buds to be ‘ready to go’ when spring arrives. Once the (additional) canopy is unfolded within a few days to weeks some species suspend their primary growth activity by hormonal suppression of the apical meristems for the rest of the season. (paradormancy, Lang *et al.*, 1987). Other species, however, continue to produce new tissue ontop/beyond of the preformed one, in some cases stretching their growth period far into autumn until low temperature force them to stop. In essence, determinacy in trees refers to the ability to:

- a) preform tissue as a future investment that is ready to be deployed in spring with no further primary growth thereafter (determinate strategy)
- b) maintain a somewhat constant growth activity (or activity bursts) by forming new tissue during the current growing season (indeterminate strategy)

While this concept is often presented as dichotomous (Kozłowski & Pallardy (1997); Lechowicz (1984), but see Kikuzawa (1983); Damascos *et al.* (2005)), with species exhibiting either one extreme or the other, they more likely exist along a gradient with numerous intermediate forms. For example many oak species considered determinate growers, exhibit a second flush and many species gradually become more determinate as they mature (Borchert, 1976; Heuret *et al.*, 2006).

## Control mechanisms/What controls/drivers of determinism

Although a century of studying growth habits has passed we still have very little understanding of when and why trees exhibit a certain degree of (in)determinism in their growth strategy. To a large extent this is probably due to the variable environmental conditions within and between years as well as among sites and individuals that complicates the separation of factors influencing or driving shoot elongation and for that matter other meristematic activity.

Indeed there is some evidence that under favorable conditions, particularly high soil moisture availability, stretching into the growing season prolongs the period of shoot elongation or permitting a second flush, also known as lammas growth or “Johannitrieb” (see Figure 2). This indicates that shoot growth may come to a halt because the demand for water to support greater leaf area cannot be met. Since above and below-ground meristem experience large differences in temperature, the higher growth rate of shoots may soon result in an 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. A high evapotranspiration or a drying soil might have the same effect. Such a ‘stop-and-go’ behavior of the apical meristem as a consequence of lower growth rates in roots could explain the poly-cyclic flushing patterns observed in some species Girard *et al.* (2011). This latter mechanism is also supported by experimental data. Artificial reduction of the leaf area caused terminal buds to keep growing until the original leaf area was re-established (Borchert, 1973). Similarly many species produce new shoots after a damaging spring frost or after severe herbivory in order to rebuild their canopy.

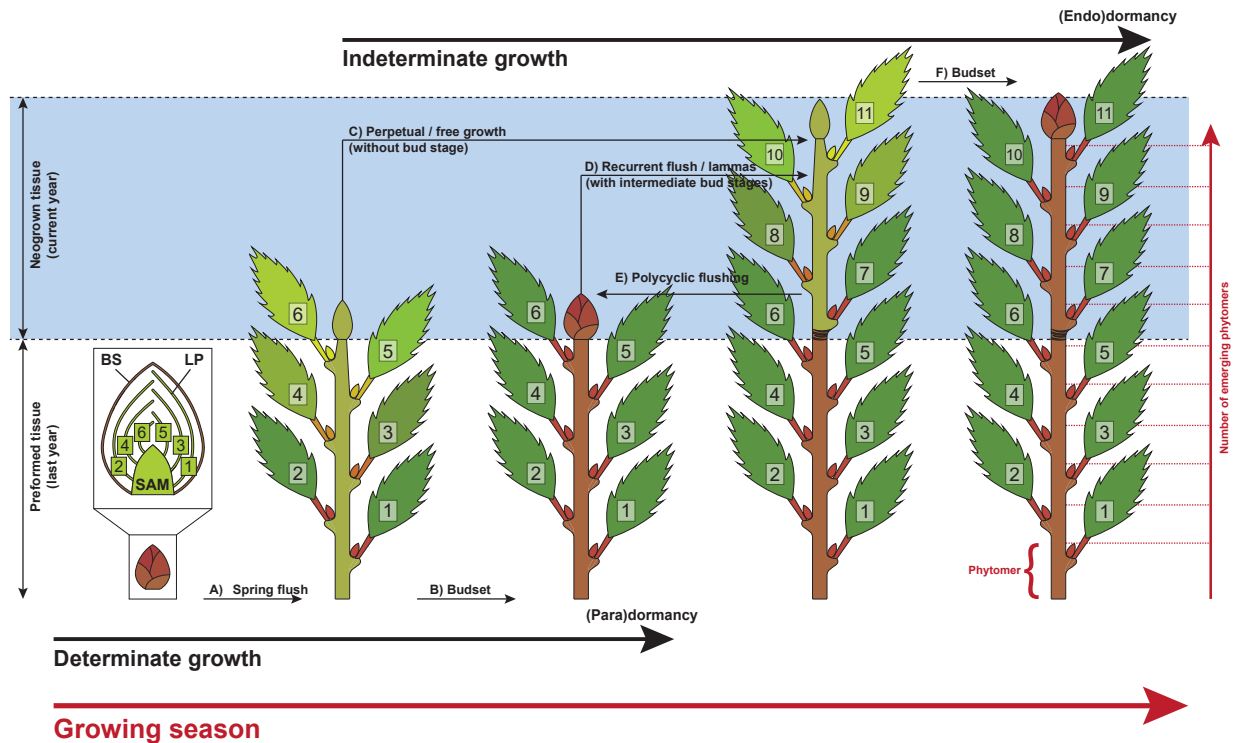


Figure 2: Determinate and indeterminate growth within one growing season. Commonly all tree species deploy buds during their first spring flush from prebuild and overwintering leaf primordia (A). Determinate growing species set bud (B) that are under hormonal suppression to sustain any further activity of the shoot apical meristem (paradormancy). Indeterminate growing species continue to produce new tissue directly (C) or through one (D) to several (E) intermediate bud stage(s). Finally all species set their bud (F) and enter full dormancy (endodormancy). Shoot apical meristem (SAM); Bud scale (BS); leaf primordia (LP). The basic unit of a shoot is the phytomer which is composed of a node, a leaf, the axillary bud and an internode.

---

This perspective suggests that the environment can completely flip a species' strategy — but research shows this is not the case. While manipulations on root:shoot ratios have shown a certain plasticity of the apical shoot meristem to adjust leaf area after disturbance, we still observe distinct growth patterns when environmental conditions remain favorable. Hence, there must be an underlying internal program that sets the potential of how trees grow and explains the variation of growth habits among species we observe in the same environmental conditions (see Table XX for a list of species and their main growth strategy). latitudinal gradients and population differences within a species...Sally could help here c) these are fundamental trade-offs — both successful and co -occur in communities successional stage, ontogeny, life span, evolution we should talk also about some downsides of the indeterminate strategy. e.g. faster turnover, increased exposure to risky climate, ...but will both still be successful with CC?

## The role of determinism with climate change

Climate change is extending the growing season length while at the same time increasing the risk for severe drought (Hao *et al.*, 2018) and presumably also late spring frost events in many regions worldwide (Zohner *et al.*, 2020). How are these potential benefits and threads linked to a species strategy, specifically to the degree of determinism? Which strategy profits most from an extended growing season length and which one is flexible enough to rearrange their phenological cycle to withstand increased environmental stress. And which one comes with more biomass production and C sequestration? We propose that the degree of determinism is an important trait largely controlling the responses of trees in a future climate illustrated in Figure 4.

Spring warming has advanced the onset of leaf emergence by up to a month compared to pre-industrial times (Vitasse *et al.*, 2022). In contrast autumn phenology of growth and leaf senescence has not delayed as one could predict from environmental conditions Zani *et al.* (2020); ?. In fact, the phenological sequence is observed to shift more as a whole towards spring ?, not necessarily leading to increased biomass production during longer growing seasons (Zani *et al.*, 2020). We hypothesize that only determinate growing species shift their growth in such a way with minimal changes in overall productivity. In contrast, indeterminate growing species are able to extend their growing period in both directions, leading to an increased productivity in a future climate (Figure 4).

The flexible growth strategies of indeterminate species that help them exploit longer seasons, could also increase their exposure to extreme climatic events. Indeterminate species are often among the first to leaf-out and among the last to shed their leaves (REF) — occasionally as a result of a freezing event. In addition a substantial part of their growth period falls into summer with increased risk of drought (Figure 4). Therefore, we hypothesize that the conservative strategy of determinate growing species largely escape from unfavourable growing conditions by placing their growth activities between the last spring frost and the increasing water shortages in summer, with relatively ample safety margins. As a consequence productivity shows little between year variation and will largely remain constant in a future climate. However, once hit by an extreme event, determinate growing species might not recover easily. Even if leaves are shed to prevent further damage, the loss of the canopy, which is rarely replaced in determinate species after summer, will contribute to a lower fitness and reserve pools. In contrast, the flexible growth schedule of indeterminate growing species may allow to 1) produce tissue better adapted to harsh environmental conditions as it is formed in the current season - even if that means no additional growth and 2) catch up and compensate later in the season by another productivity boost.

We argue that new opportunities and challenges for trees with climate change will increasingly dis-

---

183 rupt their phenological cycle, favoring species who are more plastic in rearranging their activities by  
184 resuming growth, reproduction and/or storage filling later in the year, thereby recovering from and  
185 compensating for some stress-induced damages and losses. Future climate will therefore likely inten-  
186 sify the competition among co-occurring species and might re-assemble forest communities increasingly  
187 composed of species adopting an indeterminate growth strategy.  
188 Figure 3 shows an example figure.

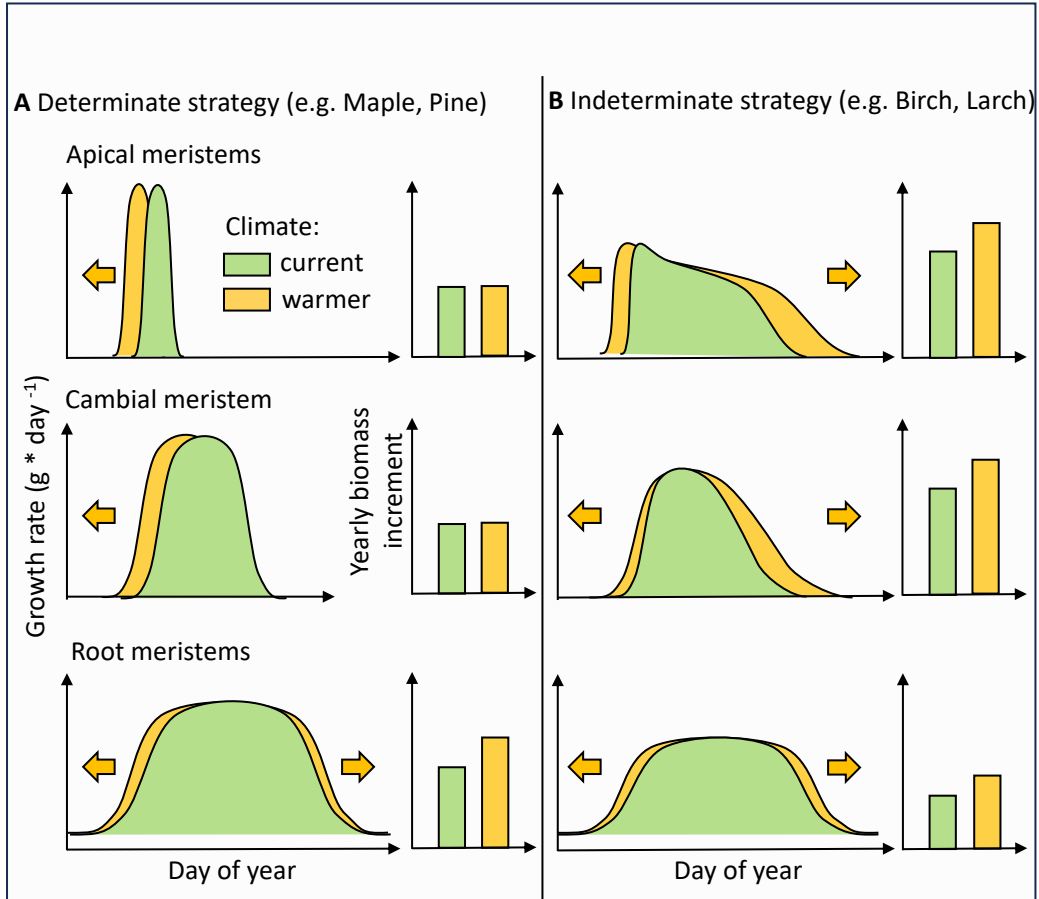


Figure 3: Hypothesized predictions of growth rates for the three major meristems (apical, cambium and root) classes of trees under current and warmer climates following an extreme determinate (A) and indeterminate (B) growth strategy. The area under the curve is summarized as yearly biomass increment in the respective bar-plot. Arrows indicate the shift of growth phenology under warmer climate conditions. Root meristems appear to be purely temperature-opportunistic for both strategies, even growing during warm winter spells. The indicated genera were observed to showcase the illustrated trends. The responses of these two contrasting growth strategy might apply not only to different tree species but also within a population (e.g. along environmental gradients) and even within an individual as it transitions from the juvenile to the adult stage (ontogeny).



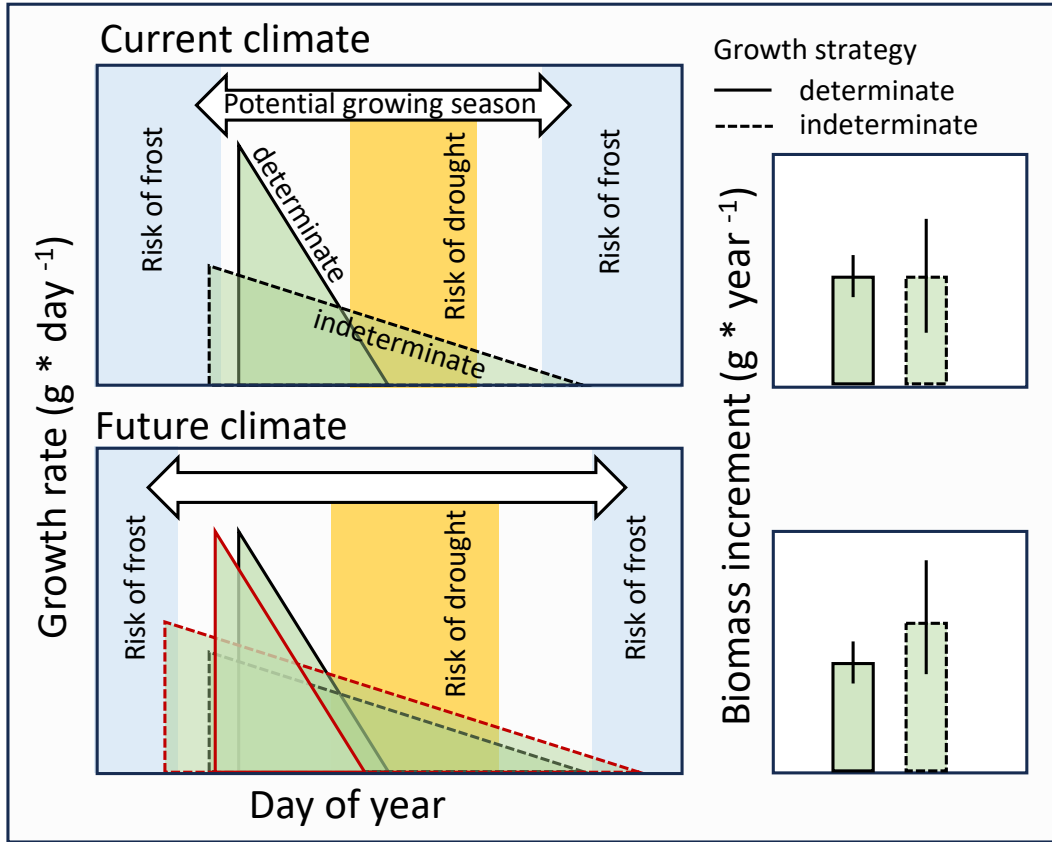


Figure 4: Hypothesized predictions of growth rates under current and future climate for determinate and indeterminate growing species. Note that the indeterminate strategy is more exposed to the risk of frost and drought events while the determinate strategy condenses most growth within a rather safe period. In the current climate the indeterminate strategy is in balance with benefiting from the full climatic growing season in some years with some drawback in other years, resulting in the same mean yearly biomass increment, but with a higher variation; right box). In a future climate the indeterminate strategy might benefit exceedingly from longer growing seasons, resulting in an overall higher mean annual biomass increment compared to determinate growers.

---

## Future directions

We argue that incorporating plant determinism into our models of forest dynamics could provide better answers to major questions. When and how much is growth and therefore carbon sequestration most impacted by climate extremes and longer growing seasons likely depends on the ratio of indeterminate to determinate species in a forest community. These two strategies, and better understanding them will also help understand the potentials and limits of trees to adapt a future climate.

The fundamental questions regarding the timing and duration of growth remain and are more pressing than ever: When and how much is growth and therefore carbon sequestration most impacted by climate extremes? Moreover, we must question the potentials and limits of trees to adapt — are they plastic enough to extend their growing period in a climate with prolonged seasons? Or are they bound to follow an internal program in which growth and development occurs within narrow, fixed temporal boundaries?

## Role of determinacy with climate extremes and prolonged growing seasons

The concept of growth determinacy could play an important role in answering these questions and improve our predictions of future tree growth and performance. Specifically, how much degree of (in)determinism allows to escape periods of increased risk of environmental stress while being versatile enough to resume metabolic activities to repair damaged structures, restore reserves and eventually compensate for previous losses during the same season. Assessing the trade-off between buffering extreme events and exploiting a longer growing season will likely contribute to our understanding of how forest communities will assemble over the course of this century.

Going forward, we need to identify the plasticity of the trait of exhibiting indeterminate growth under different environmental conditions and the genetic programming of a species and to what extent the latter prioritizes the former. Namely, across species and populations and involving different fields from genomics to physiology and ecology. Moreover, we need to test how universal the concept can be applied/holds true across different meristems and resource allocation.

## Patterns across meristems

Although (in)determinate growth is mainly associated with the activity of the shoot apical meristem, a similar pattern or concept might be found in the cambium as well to ensure a timely switch from vegetative growth to reproductive and storage investments. In fact, also cambial cells produce several cohorts of precursor cells with differentiation and lignification being completed at a much later stage only (Valdovinos-Ayala *et al.*, 2022). Hence the number of initial cells divided at the beginning largely determines the amount of total xylem produced Lupi *et al.* (2010). In this case, primary growth reflects or at least influences the overall growth performance of an individual, integrated across all above-ground meristems. The low predictive power to estimate the end of wood formation in autumn reported by several studies Buttò *et al.* (2020) indeed points to a mechanism that stem growth in many tree species ceases despite of ongoing favourable conditions and a green canopy Arend *et al.* (2024).

Regarding below-ground meristems, roots seem to follow a much more opportunistic strategy with indeterminate growth potentially occurring throughout the year. Warming experiments using Rhizotrones have shown that roots can grow even in mid-winter if temperature allow it Lyford & Wilson (1966), suggesting that roots do not enter a state of dormancy Radville *et al.* (2016). To what extent asynchrony between above and below-ground meristems occur as a result of different tissue temperatures, root:shoot imbalances or genetically fixed investment strategies remain unresolved Abramoff & Finzi (2015); Makoto *et al.* (2020).

---

Future studies should therefore link the temporal dynamics of primary (apical and root) and secondary (cambial) meristems. Correlating annual tree rings with shoot increments could reveal such a common pattern, if accounting for when interannual shoot segments (phytomers) were produced, e.g. separating preformed from neogrown tissue (REF Günter?). Revealing the patterns of when different meristems are active will likely contribute to a theoretical framework of temporal carbon allocation dynamics.

gene/hormones (1-2 para)

bii) Evol. history (end on metric foreshadowing) Understanding how universally tissues within species are determinate or indeterminate could provide insight into the evolution of (in)determinacy, which could be aided by cross-species analyses. Currently, few analyses have examined (in)determinacy occurs across most species in a genera or clade or appears to evolve repeatedly in different groups, making it difficult to speculate on which strategy is ancestral and how rapidly (in)determinacy can evolved. As data on which species are determinate or indeterminate accumulates, such analyses could potentially provide rapid insights into this, and also aid forecasting for unsampled species. Assigning species as determinate or indeterminate, however, may be slow if they trait is actually better considered as continuous.

## Metrics of determinacy

To address these questions we need better metrics to quantify the degree of determinacy, moving beyond a dichotomous classification system. We propose several metrics from best to acceptable, with increasing spatial scale:

(1) The ratio of the number of leaves at the end of the season to the initial number of leaf primordia in buds at the start of the season provides a measure of (in)determinacy. Values above one indicate an increasing degree of indeterminate growth. Although this metric was already described over a century ago by Moore (1909), its application has been limited to few studies exploring specific regions only (Damascos *et al.*, 2005; Kikuzawa, 1983)

(2) Direct measures of shoot elongation (height increments) and/or xylogenesis (micro-cores) at high temporal resolution (e.g. bi-weekly) to assess the temporal dynamics of apical and cambial activity. Especially wood anatomical observations ensure the distinction of cell formation and their subsequent enlargement and development REFS

(3) As a proxy for the above, dendrometers provide insights of xylem and phloem formation at high temporal resolution. Although obtained measurements are a mixture of several processes, it allows to identify the tree water deficits and related growth reductions Etzold *et al.* (2021); Zweifel *et al.* (2021).

(4) Using observations of 'second flushes' in large databases (e.g. US national forest network).

(5) Patterns and fluctuations of canopy growth detected from drones or satellites using Lidar or spectral techniques. The temporal trend of canopy greenness over the growing season can reveal investment strategies integrated over whole ecosystems and vast areas. As a recent example, Meng *et al.* (2024) found that time allocation between vegetation green-up (from start of the growing season to its peak) and vegetation senescence (between peak and end of season) remained constant despite substantial differences in growing season lengths and degree of warming in temperate ecosystems across the northern hemisphere.

Could be also a section "Evidence for internal growth control"

## Acknowledgments

Justin Ngo for the help in illustrating

---

## stuff I didn't find place yet

Ontogeny: the preformation of leaves inside the seed may be a better strategy than seed mass (da Silva *et al.*, 2023)

Deciduous tree species have a higher number of leaf primordia inside their buds than evergreen species in the Cerrado (Brazil).

If experiments are conducted in conditions with unlimited soil moisture and under similar temperature regimes, then the dynamics of growth responses can be comparable among species and reveal their potential in deploying indeterminate growth. Under natural conditions with common soil moisture and associated turgor limitations it is currently hard to tell if trees cease growth because of a response to the environment or because of switches in resource allocation.

Grow fast die young...

Even in grasslands an earlier onset of growth is associated with an earlier stop under climate warming Möhl *et al.* (2022)

indeterminate species are often early successional ones (Marks, 1975; Boojh & Ramakrishnan, 1982) must include:

Iwasa & Cohen (1989)

Damascos *et al.* (2005) as a good metric to quantify the degree of determinism and link to the very old reference of first description Moore (1909)

GUÉDON *et al.* (2006)

Shoot growth patterns do not only tell us something about the plant architecture and the strategy of space exploitation, but may reveal also patterns of the whole-plant dynamic and potential of growth and carbon sequestration.

unit of extension vs. unit of morphogenesis: Perhaps state somewhere that we commonly only observe the extension pattern while patterns of organogenesis remain hidden.

?: determinate growth: irreversible transformation of the apical meristem (flowering or other structures, apical death/abscission) indeterminate growth: functioning of the apical meristems remains intact (but may have periods of rest)

## Bibliography

- Abramoff, R.Z. & Finzi, A.C. (2015). Are above- and below-ground phenology in sync? *New Phytologist*, 205, 1054–1061.
- Arend, M., Hoch, G. & Kahmen, A. (2024). Stem growth phenology, not canopy greening, constrains deciduous tree growth. *Tree Physiology*, 44, tpad160.
- Baumgarten, F., Gessler, A. & Vitasse, Y. (2023). No risk—no fun: Penalty and recovery from spring frost damage in deciduous temperate trees. *Functional Ecology*, 37, 648–663.
- Boojh, R. & Ramakrishnan, P.S. (1982). Growth strategy of trees related to successional status I. Architecture and extension growth. *Forest Ecology and Management*, 4, 359–374.
- Borchert, R. (1973). Simulation of Rhythmic Tree Growth under Constant Conditions. *Physiologia Plantarum*, 29, 173–180.
- Borchert, R. (1976). The concept of juvenility in woody plants. *Acta Horticulturae*, pp. 21–36.
- Buttò, V., Shishov, V., Tychkov, I., Popkova, M., He, M., Rossi, S., Deslauriers, A. & Morin, H. (2020). Comparing the Cell Dynamics of Tree-Ring Formation Observed in Microcores and as Predicted by the Vaganov–Shashkin Model. *Frontiers in Plant Science*, 11.
- Damascos, M.A., Prado, C.H.B.A. & Ronquim, C.C. (2005). Bud Composition, Branching Patterns and Leaf Phenology in Cerrado Woody Species. *Annals of Botany*, 96, 1075–1084.
- Ejsmond, M.J., Czarnoleski, M., Kapustka, F. & Kozłowski, J. (2010). How to Time Growth and Reproduction during the Vegetative Season: An Evolutionary Choice for Indeterminate Growers in Seasonal Environments. *The American Naturalist*, 175, 551–563.
- Etzold, S., Sterck, F., Bose, A.K., Braun, S., Buchmann, N., Eugster, W., Gessler, A., Kahmen, A., Peters, R.L. & Vitasse, Y. (2021). Number of growth days and not length of the growth period determines radial stem growth of temperate trees. *Ecology Letters*.
- Girard, F., Vennetier, M., Ouarmim, S., Caraglio, Y. & Misson, L. (2011). Polycyclism, a fundamental tree growth process, decline with recent climate change: The example of *Pinus halepensis* Mill. in Mediterranean France. *Trees*, 25, 311–322.
- GUÉDON, YANN., PUNTIERI, J.G., SABATIER, S. & BARTHÉLÉMY, D. (2006). Relative Extents of Preformation and Neoformation in Tree Shoots: Analysis by a Deconvolution Method. *Annals of Botany*, 98, 835–844.
- Hao, Z., Hao, F., Singh, V.P. & Zhang, X. (2018). Changes in the severity of compound drought and hot extremes over global land areas. *Environmental Research Letters*, 13, 124022.
- Heuret, P., Meredieu, C., Coudurier, T., Courdier, F. & Barthélémy, D. (2006). Ontogenetic trends in the morphological features of main stem annual shoots of *Pinus pinaster* (Pinaceae). *American Journal of Botany*, 93, 1577–1587.
- Iwasa, Y. & Cohen, D. (1989). Optimal Growth Schedule of a Perennial Plant. *The American Naturalist*, 133, 480–505.
- Karkach, A.S. (2006). Trajectories and models of individual growth. *Demographic Research*, 15, 347–400.
- Kikuzawa, K. (1983). Leaf survival of woody plants in deciduous broad-leaved forests. 1. Tall trees. *Canadian Journal of Botany*, 61, 2133–2139.

- Körner, C. (2008). Winter crop growth at low temperature may hold the answer for alpine treeline formation. *Plant Ecology & Diversity*, 1, 3–11.
- Kozłowski, T.T. & Pallardy, S.G. (1997). *Growth Control in Woody Plants*. Elsevier.
- Lang, G.A., Early, J.D., Martin, G.C. & Darnell, R.L. (1987). Endo-, Para-, and Ecodormancy: Physiological Terminology and Classification for Dormancy Research. *HortScience*, 22, 371–377.
- Lechowicz, M.J. (1984). Why Do Temperate Deciduous Trees Leaf Out at Different Times? Adaptation and Ecology of Forest Communities. *The American Naturalist*.
- Lupi, C., Morin, H., Deslauriers, A. & Rossi, S. (2010). Xylem phenology and wood production: Resolving the chicken-or-egg dilemma. *Plant, Cell & Environment*, 33, 1721–1730.
- Lyford, W. & Wilson, B. (1966). Controlled growth of forest tree roots: Technique and application. *Harvard Forest Paper*.
- Makoto, K., Wilson, S.D., Sato, T., Blume-Werry, G. & Cornelissen, J.H.C. (2020). Synchronous and asynchronous root and shoot phenology in temperate woody seedlings. *Oikos*, 129, 643–650.
- Marks, P.L. (1975). On the Relation between Extension Growth and Successional Status of Deciduous Trees of the Northeastern United States. *Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club*, 102, 172–177.
- McDaniel, C.N. (1992). Induction and Determination: Developmental Concepts. *Flowering Newsletter*, pp. 3–6.
- Meng, F., Felton, A.J., Mao, J., Cong, N., Smith, W.K., Körner, C., Hu, Z., Hong, S., Knott, J., Yan, Y., Guo, B., Deng, Y., Leisz, S., Dorji, T., Wang, S. & Chen, A. (2024). Consistent time allocation fraction to vegetation green-up versus senescence across northern ecosystems despite recent climate change. *Science Advances*, 10, eadn2487.
- Möhl, P., von Büren, R.S. & Hiltbrunner, E. (2022). Growth of alpine grassland will start and stop earlier under climate warming. *Nature Communications*, 13, 7398.
- Moore, E. (1909). The Study of Winter Buds with Reference to Their Growth and Leaf Content. *Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club*, 36, 117–145.
- O’sullivan, O.S., Heskell, M.A., Reich, P.B., Tjoelker, M.G., Weerasinghe, L.K., Penillard, A., Zhu, L., Egerton, J.J.G., Bloomfield, K.J., Creek, D., Bahar, N.H.A., Griffin, K.L., Hurry, V., Meir, P., Turnbull, M.H. & Atkin, O.K. (2017). Thermal limits of leaf metabolism across biomes. *Global Change Biology*, 23, 209–223.
- Radville, L., McCormack, M.L., Post, E. & Eissenstat, D.M. (2016). Root phenology in a changing climate. *Journal of Experimental Botany*, 67, 3617–3628.
- Rossi, S., Deslauriers, A., Gricar, J., Seo, J.W., Rathgeber, C.B.K., Anfodillo, T., Morin, H., Levanic, T., Oven, P. & Jalkanen, R. (2008). Critical temperatures for xylogenesis in conifers of cold climates. *Global Ecology and Biogeography*, 17, 696–707.
- Sakai, A. & Larcher, W. (1987). *Freezing Injuries in Plants*, Springer Berlin Heidelberg, Berlin, Heidelberg, vol. 62, pp. 39–58.
- Schenker, G., Lenz, A., Körner, C. & Hoch, G. (2014). Physiological minimum temperatures for root growth in seven common European broad-leaved tree species. *Tree Physiology*, 34, 302–313.
- da Silva, L.G.F., Puntieri, J.G., Melo, N.M.J. & Souza, J.P. (2023). Could the presence of preformed leaves inside the seed be more important than seed size for the establishment and growth of Cerrado seedlings? *Acta Botanica Brasilica*, 37, e20230119.

- 390 Valdovinos-Ayala, J., Robles, C., Fickle, J.C., Pérez-de-Lis, G., Pratt, R.B. & Jacobsen, A.L. (2022).  
391 Seasonal patterns of increases in stem girth, vessel development, and hydraulic function in deciduous  
392 tree species. *Annals of Botany*, 130, 355–365.
- 393 Vitasse, Y., Baumgarten, F., Zohner, C.M., Rutishauser, T., Pietragalla, B., Gehrig, R., Dai, J., Wang,  
394 H., Aono, Y. & Sparks, T.H. (2022). The great acceleration of plant phenological shifts. *Nature*  
395 *Climate Change*, 12, 300–302.
- 396 Zani, D., Crowther, T.W., Mo, L., Renner, S.S. & Zohner, C.M. (2020). Increased growing-season  
397 productivity drives earlier autumn leaf senescence in temperate trees. *Science*, 370, 1066–1071.
- 398 Zohner, C.M., Mo, L., Renner, S.S., Svenning, J.C., Vitasse, Y., Benito, B.M., Ordonez, A., Baum-  
399 garten, F., Bastin, J.F. & Sebal, V. (2020). Late-spring frost risk between 1959 and 2017 decreased  
400 in North America but increased in Europe and Asia. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sci-*  
401 *ences*, 117, 12192–12200.
- 402 Zohner, C.M., Renner, S.S., Sebal, V. & Crowther, T.W. (2021). How changes in spring and autumn  
403 phenology translate into growth-experimental evidence of asymmetric effects. *Journal of Ecology*,  
404 109, 2717–2728.
- 405 Zweifel, R., Sterck, F., Braun, S., Buchmann, N., Eugster, W., Gessler, A., Häni, M., Peters, R.L.,  
406 Walthert, L. & Wilhelm, M. (2021). Why trees grow at night. *New Phytologist*.