

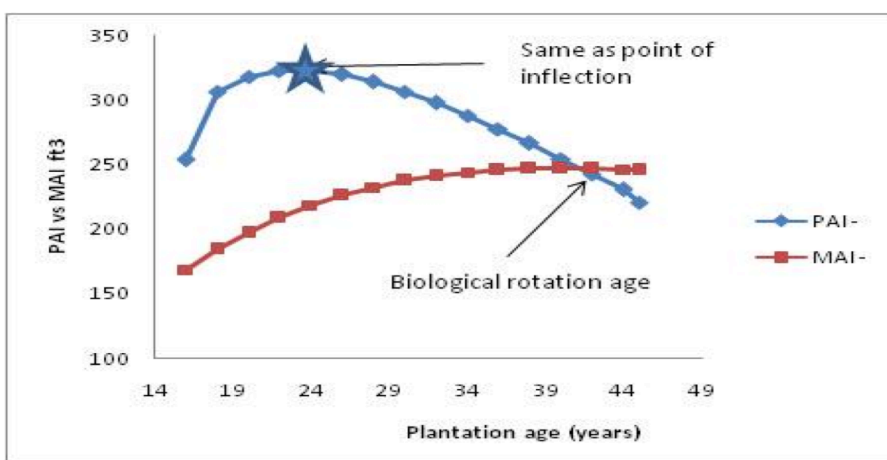
# When Is My Stand Ready For Harvest?

In general terms, your stand is old enough to harvest for when the average tree reaches 8-inch in diameter at 32 feet; assuming an average taper of 1-inch per 10 feet, this equates to an average stand diameter at breast height (dbh) of approximately 11 inches.

To maximize long-term timber yield, you will want to harvest your trees when the mean annual increment (MAI) and Periodic Annual Increment (PAI) meet; this is referred to as the *biological rotation age*. MAI and PAI can be measured using an increment borer or by measuring rings on a downed or severed tree.

Mean Annual Increment refers to the average growth per year a tree or stand of trees exhibits to a specific age. For example a 50 year old tree with a diameter at breast height of 30 inches has a MAI of .6 inches/year. Periodic Annual Increment is simply the growth for one specific year.

For typical alder growth pattern, MAI starts out small, increases to a maximum value as the tree matures, then declines slowly for the remainder of the tree height.



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