Thesis outline

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1 Introduction

1.1 Climate change impacts on tree phenology

Climate change impacts on biological systems and how phenological trends are already shifting with warming temperatures.

1.2.2. Trends of spring and autumn phenological events and their drivers[1]

1.2.2.1. changes in phenology
1.2.2.2. Drivers of spring phenology (including forcing and chilling from paragraph of declining sensitivity)
1.2.2.3. Drivers of autumn phenology

1.2.3. Defining growth and the growing season

1.2.3.1. Growth: short and description of xylogenesis
1.2.3.2. Growing season: definitions and which one I'll be using.

1.2.4. How these shifts translate into effects on trees/forests not totally clear – Pros and cons of early/late start of season:

1.2.5.Growing season shifts consequences on forest ecosystems and services

1.2 Nature of the problem and to address it

1.2.1. Past phenological trends can help (or not) predict future phenological changes

1.2.2. The assumption that longer seasons lead to increased growth is called into question

1.2.2.1. Absence of growth despite better conditions and strategies that can be used
1.2.2.2. Experiments
1.2.2.3. Ground based observations

1.2.3. Goals of my thesis

Address the overly simple statement that longer seasons increase growth Use tree rings and phenological observations to understand how they are related.

1.3 Complexity of measuring growth

1. Traditional diameter measurements miss the resolution of annual growth increment
2. Growth increment should incorporate wood density to better evaluate how much structural carbohydrates were stored within a single year.
3. Primary and secondary growth do not start and end at the same time
4. Getting growth temporal resolution is labor-intensive and expensive (e.g. dendrometer costs)

1.4 Research questions

1. **Fuelinex**: How do extended growing seasons affect tree growth across different species, both immediately (in the same year as the extended season) and in subsequent years?
2. **CookieSpotters**: How phenological traits regulate tree growth in urban ecosystems?

1.5 Hypothesis

1. **Fuelinex**: Growing season extension modifies a tree's capacity to sequestrate carbon and nitrogen, and this could lead to increased growth in the following season.
2. **Fuelinex**: Species capable of accumulating nutrients after growth cessation while going through leaf senescence might exhibit growth increment in the following growing season
3. **CookieSpotters**: The magnitude of the growth response to longer seasons will differ between juvenile and mature trees.

1.6 Objectives and outreach

1. **Fuelinex**: Assess tree species' potential to prolong or stretch their activity schedule.
2. **Fuelinex**: Determine whether trees can absorb nutrients beyond their theoretical growing season.
3. **Fuelinex**: Examine if increased carbon pools translate into greater growth increment in the following growing season.
4. **CookieSpotters**: Investigate how the timing of phenological events affects growth across years for juvenile and mature trees

2 Methods

2.1 Fuelinex

1. Full factorial design (Fig. 1)
2. 2-year experiment over 2024-2025 (Fig. 2 and 3)
3. Nutrient addition
4. Data: phenology, shoot elongation, diameter, height, biomass, tree rings
5. Analysis: TBD
6. Studied species (Table 1)

2.2 Wildchrokie

1. Common garden from 2015 to 2023
2. Four species within the Betulacea family (Table 2)
3. Data: phenology, height, tree rings
4. Analysis: Hierarchical model to understand how tree ring width relates to GDD

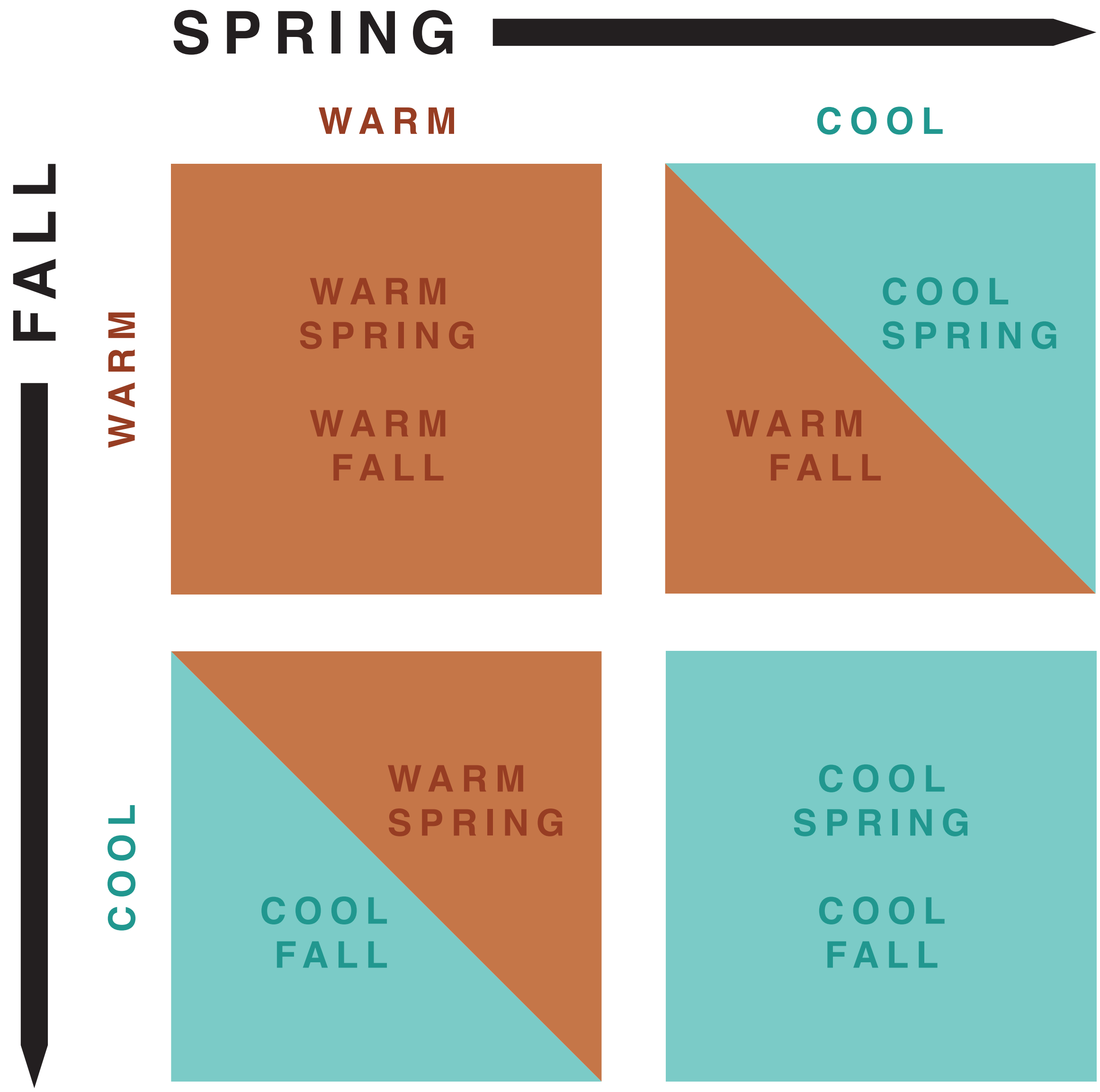

Figure 1: Full factorial design of Cool/Warm Spring and Cool/Warm Fall

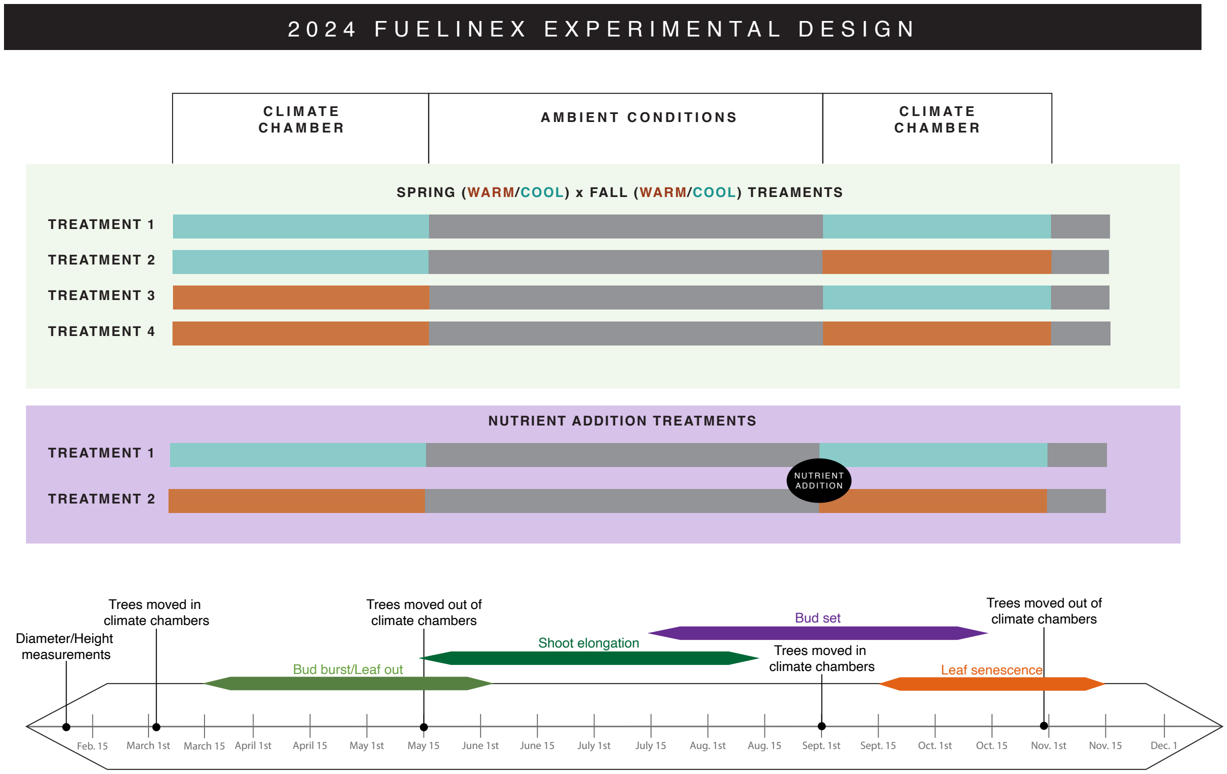

Figure 2: Experimental design of the different treatments that were performed during the growing season of 2024. The timeline displays the periods of the different measurements. Nutrient addition treatments are displayed by the black elipses

Table 1: Fuelinex species grouped by tree type, life history, and wood anatomy.

Deciduous Trees			
Common Name (Latin)	**Life History Strategy**	**Wood Anatomy**	**n (approx)**
Bur oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*)	Slow-growth, long life	Ring-porous	87
Bitter cherry (*Prunus virginiana*)	Fast-growth, short life	Diffuse-porous	78
Box elder (*Acer negundo*)	Fast-growth, short life	Diffuse-porous	90
Balsam poplar (*Populus balsamifera*)	Fast-growth, short life	Diffuse-porous	84
Paper birch (*Betula papyrifera*)	Fast-growth, short life	Diffuse-porous	90
Evergreen Trees			
White pine (*Pinus strobus*)	Slow-growth, long life		89
Giant Sequoia (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*)	Slow-growth, long life		54

Table 2: Wilchrokie species grouped by tree type, life history, and wood anatomy.

Deciduous Trees			
Common Name (Latin)	**Life History Strategy**	**Wood Anatomy**	**n**
Paper birch (*Betula papyrifera*)	Fast-growth, short life	Diffuse-porous	8
Yellow birch (*Betula alleghaniensis*)	Moderate-growth, moderate life	Diffuse-porous	21
Grey birch (*Betula populifolia*)	Fast-growth, short life	Diffuse-porous	29
Grey alder (*Alnus incana*)	Fast-growth, short life	Diffuse-porous	31

Table 3: Treespotters species grouped by tree type, life history, and wood anatomy.

Deciduous Trees			
Common Name (Latin)	**Life History Strategy**	**Wood Anatomy**	**n**
American basswood (*Tilia americana*)	Fast-growth, moderate life	Diffuse-porous	5
Eastern cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*)	Fast-growth, short life	Diffuse-porous	4
Northern red oak (*Quercus rubra*)	Moderate-growth, long life	Ring-porous	4
White oak (*Quercus alba*)	Slow-growth, long life	Ring-porous	5
Pignut hickory (*Carya glabra*)	Slow-growth, long life	Ring-porous	4
Shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*)	Slow-growth, long life	Ring-porous	4
River birch (*Betula nigra*)	Fast-growth, short life	Diffuse-porous	5
Yellow birch (*Betula alleghaniensis*)	Moderate-growth, moderate life	Diffuse-porous	4
Sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*)	Slow-growth, long life	Diffuse-porous	5
Red maple (*Acer rubrum*)	Slow-growth, long life	Diffuse-porous	4
Yellow buckeye (*Aesculus flava*)	Moderate-growth, moderate life	Diffuse-porous	5

2.3 Treespotters

1. Citizen scie nce project from 2015 to today (Table 3)
2. Tree coring
3. Data: phenology, tree rings
4. Analysis: Hierarchical model to understand how tree ring width relates to GDD

3 Timeline

Fig. **

4 References

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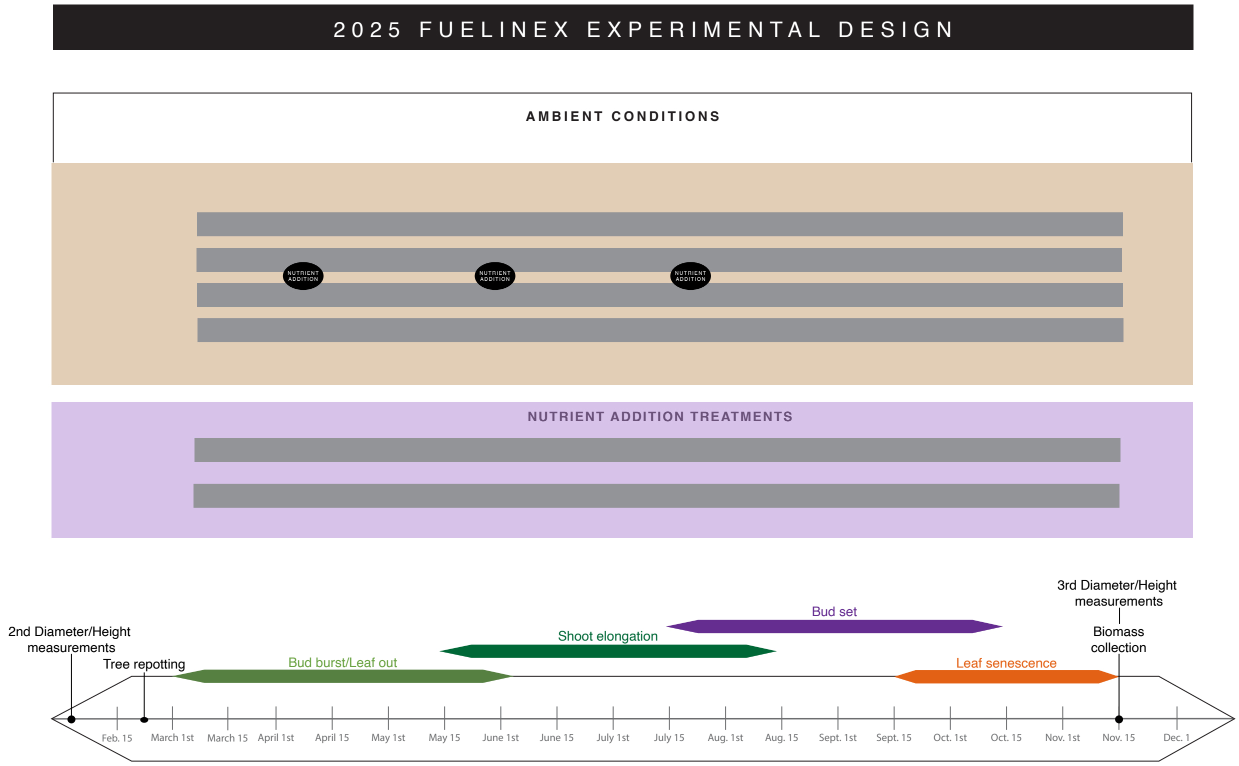

Figure 3: Timeline displaying the periods of the different measurements during the growing season of 2025

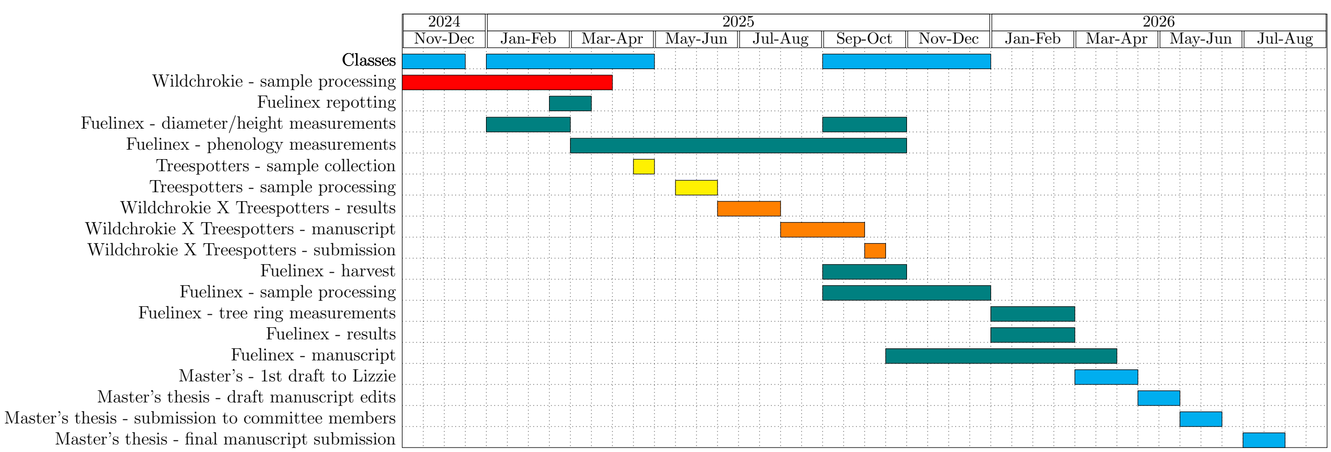

Figure 1: Christophe RD Master's timeline

Figure 4: Gant chart displaying the different milestones to be done over 2025 and 2026