Forest Fertilization

West Florida Research & Education Center

Multiple Species Study:

Fertilization in combination with herbaceous weed control provided significantly more height and diameter growth in young seedlings over seedlings receiving no treatments.

Bedding vs Flat Plant Study:

Seedlings planted on bedded sites consistently outgrew seedlings planted on un-bedded sites.

On bedded sites, seedlings receiving fertilizer & herbaceous weed control grew the best compared to seedlings receiving only herbaceous weed control and seedlings receiving no treatment.

Both DAP & TSP fertilizers performed well and which product to use depends upon your soil conditions and cost.

Don't apply fertilizers to seedlings unless you control the competing vegetation. Seedlings grew the least when fertilizer alone was applied to them. Seedlings receiving no treatment did better than fertilized seedlings with no weed control.

These studies were in new planted seedlings, not mature trees.