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Estimating the sample size for fitting taper equations

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<https://doi.org/10.17221/789-JFS>

Citation: Kitikidou K., Chatzilazarou G. (2008): Estimating the sample size for fitting taper equations. J. For. Sci., 54: 176-182.

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Much work has been done fitting taper equations to describe tree bole shapes, but few researchers have investigated how large the sample size should be. In this paper, a method that requires two variables that are linearly correlated was applied to determine the sample size for fitting taper equations. Two cases of sample size estimation were tested, based on the method mentioned above. In the first case, the sample size required is referred to the total number of diameters estimated in the sampled trees. In the second case, the sample size required is referred to the number of sampled trees. The analysis showed that both methods are efficient from a validity standpoint but the first method has the advantage of decreased cost, since it costs much more to incrementally sample another tree than it does to make another diameter measurement on an already sampled tree.

Keywords:

sampling methods; tree shape; regression

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