





What is Next in the Application of Genome-Wide Information to Tree Breeding?

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SFTIC

Melbourne, Florida – June 20 2017







Will we fail (again)?

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Genomics incorporated into pine breeding



Plant Sciences.



Publication No. 1475, Issued Januay 1990

National Arbor Day Foundation Plant Hardiness Zone Map published in 2006.



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No. 34. Complete destruction of chestnut trees in a nearly pure stand. Many of the trunks have lost their bark. Scene in Forest Park, near Brooklyn, New York.—*Photograph by Prof. Collins.* (1912)



1990's

2010's

QTL



Current population



Genome-wide selection



Current population



2000's

GWAS

Ancestral population



Current population



Genome-Wide Selection



Meuwissen et al. (2001) Genetics 157: 1819-1829

Genome-Wide Selection



GWS Genome-Wide Selection

GWAS Genome-Wide Association Studies



Lower $N_e \sim \text{lower allelic range}$ Higher LD = lower resolution Application to breeding

Higher $N_e \sim$ higher allelic range Lower LD = higher resolution Application to discovery of gene function / functional genomics

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Lower $N_e \sim$ lower allelic range Higher LD = lower resolution Application to breeding

Markers needed \approx 10-20/cM

Higher Ne ~ higher allelic range Lower LD = higher resolution Application to discovery of gene function / functional genomics Markers needed $\approx 1M+$ Tree Genetics & Genomes (2011) 7:241-255 DOI 10.1007/s11295-010-0328-4



M. D. V. Resende^{7,8} and M. Kirst^{3,4}

Genomics incorporated into pine breeding



Plant Sciences.

Genomic Selection in Conifers

- "Comparing CLonal Lines on Experimental Sites = CCLONES"
- 900 replicated loblolly pine clones developed from 62 elite full-sib families
- Ne ≈ 40
- Four field locations
- ~3 SNP markers/cM



Márcio Resende Jr. Patricio Munoz de Almeida Filho et al. Heredity. 2016 Jul;117(1):33-41. Muñoz PR et al. Genetics. 2014 Dec;198(4):1759-68. Resende MF Jr et al. Genetics. 2012 Apr;190(4):1503-10. Resende MF Jr et al. New Phytol. 2012 Feb;193(3):617-24.





DBH & Height







Accuracy

Trait catagory	Trait	Methods			
		RR-BLUP	BLASSO	Bayes A	Bayes Cπ
Growth	Height	0.39	0.38	0.38	0.38
Growth	Diameter	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46
	Crown width	0.48	0.46	0.47	0.47
Dovolonment	Branch diameter	0.27	0.25	0.27	0.27
Development	Branch angle	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51
	Root number	0.24	0.26	0.25	0.24
Disease	Rust	0.29	0.28	0.34	0.34
resistance	Rust volume	0.23	0.24	0.28	0.29
	Stiffness	0.43	0.39	0.42	0.42
	Lignin	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17
wood	Late Wood	0.24	0.24	0.23	0.24
quality	Density	0.20	0.22	0.23	0.22
	C5C6	0.26	0.25	0.25	0.25

Resende et al. Genetics 190:1503-10.



Resende et al. Genetics 190:1503-10.

How stable are prediction models across years?

Height



How stable are prediction models across sites?

DBH	Nassau	Palatka	BFGrant	Cuttberth
Nassau	0.71			
Palatka		0.70		
BFGrant			0.63	
Cuttberth				0.57



How stable are prediction models across sites?

DBH	Nassau	Palatka	BFGrant	Cuttberth
Nassau	0.71	0.44		
Palatka	0.48	0.70		
BFGrant				
Cuttberth				



How stable are prediction models across sites?

DBH	Nassau	Palatka	BFGrant	Cuttberth
Nassau				
Palatka			0.11	
BFGrant				
Cuttberth				
				550 Kn

Genetic Gain Relative to Phenotypic Selection

• Increase in genetic gain using genomic selection relative to phenotypic selection.

Trait	Site	h (BLUP)	h (GS)	Efficiency	Increase relative to phenotypic selection (%)
DBH	B.F. Grant	0.79	0.75	1.90	90
	Cuthbert	0.75	0.73	1.95	95
	Nassau	0.85	0.65	1.53	53
	Palatka	0.81	0.67	1.65	65
HT	B.F. Grant	0.74	0.77	2.08	108
	Cuthbert	0.68	0.74	2.18	118
	Nassau	0.80	0.64	1.60	60
	Palatka	0.85	0.67	1.58	58

Will this work (next generation) in forestry? Of course, it worked with...

4,202 g





1,808 g

905 g

Unfortunately, breeding trees is not the same as breeding chicken...

What are the threats to the application of genomics/genome-wide selection in forestry?

Genotype by environment interaction

Prediction models apply to narrow regions

• Low multiplier

Many suppliers, horizontal market

High cost of genotyping

Scale and affordability

Low heritabilities

Better training populations needed

Slow breeding

Slow translation of science to application

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Genotype by environment interaction





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High cost of genotyping – imputation or other solutions



Fig. 2. Prediction accuracy across families and within a family against the number of markers used in the prediction set with 200 individuals; 2000 training individuals had the true high-density genotypes (HD); LD, low-density genotypes imputed to high density; letters denote significant difference within the scope of prediction at $p \leq 0.01$ according to the Tukey's multiple comparison test.

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Are these factors really limiting?



Cooperative Forest Genetics Research Program



United States Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture

Funded by the joint USDA/DOE Plant Genomics for Bioenergy program (2013-67009-21200)

	Species	Cycle	Current Populations	Status
	Slash	3	Main - 300 Elite – 60	3 rd cycle test planted 2011-12
	Longleaf	1	Wild selections - 1000	Not active
	Lobiolly	2	Main - 150	2 nd cycle test planted 2012-13
	Sand	1	Wild selections - 143	Not active
	Hybrids	1	60 – F1	Non active



Summary

- Historical data in other systems suggests that GWS is applicable to forestry
- Preliminary data in conifers and other tree species support that expectation
- However, the uniqueness of tree breeding will impose limitations that may slow the application of GWS
- Which scenario will we find?



Summary

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- Preliminary data in conifers and other tree species support that expectation
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- Which scenario will we find?



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