



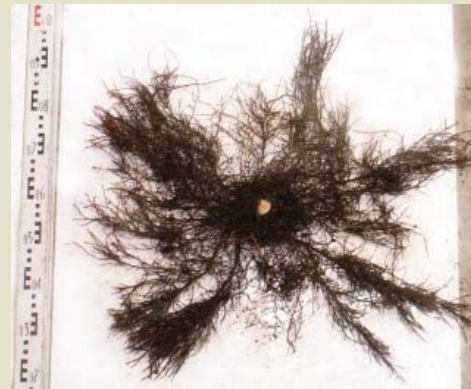
Miro

Prumnopitys ferruginea

INTRODUCTION AND METHODS

Reasons for planting native trees include the enhancement of plant and animal biodiversity for conservation, establishment of a native cover on erosion-prone sites, improvement of water quality by revegetation of riparian areas and management for production of high quality timber. Significant areas of the New Zealand landscape, both urban and rural, are being re-vegetated using native species. Many such plantings are on open sites where the aim is to quickly achieve canopy closure and often includes the planting of a mixture of shrubs and tree species concurrently. Previously, data have been presented showing the potential above- and below-ground growth performance of eleven native plant species considered typical early colonisers of bare ground, particularly in riparian areas (<http://icm.landcareresearch.co.nz/research/land/Trial1results.asp>). In this current series of posters we present data on the growth performance of six native conifer (kauri, rimu, totara, matai, miro, kahikatea) and two broadleaved hardwood (puriri, titoki) species most likely to succeed the early colonising species to become a major component in mature stands of indigenous forest (<http://icm.landcareresearch.co.nz/research/land/Trial2.asp>). Data on the potential above- and below-ground early growth performance of colonising shrubby species together with that of conifer and broadleaved species will help land managers and community groups involved in re-vegetation projects in deciding the plant spacing and species mix most appropriate for the scale of planting and best suited to site conditions.

Data are from a trial established in 2006 to assess the relative growth performance of native conifer and broadleaved hardwood tree species. Ten plants were extracted each year for 5 years following establishment and their above- and below-ground growth parameters measured.



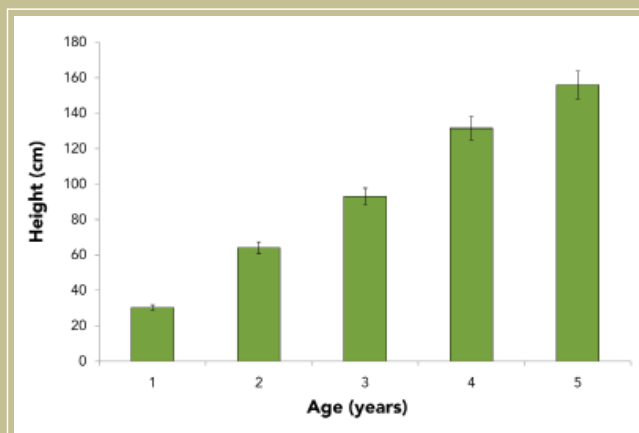
Plan view of 5-year old root system (see text box for dimensions)



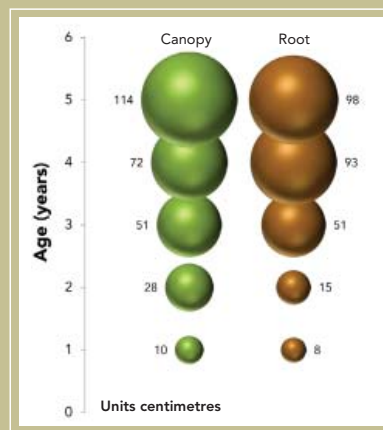
View of canopy and root system of a 5-year old plant (see text box for dimensions)

RESULTS

TREE HEIGHT



CANOPY AND ROOT SPREAD



DISTRIBUTION AND SITE PREFERENCES

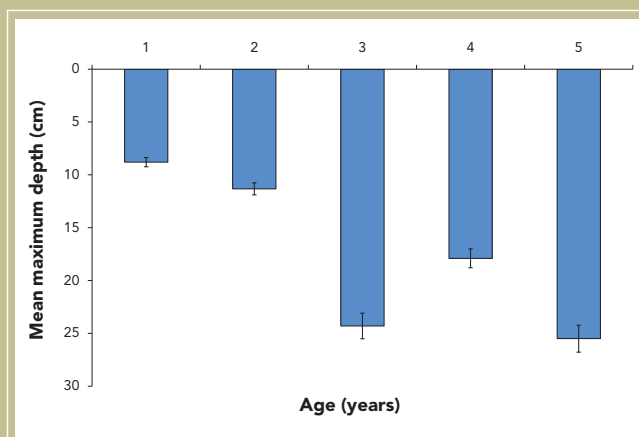
Occurrence	Throughout New Zealand
Local occurrence	Mixed lowland forests, sea level to 1000m
Preferred soils	Ubiquitous on infertile soils but extend to semi-fertile soils where moisture is adequate
Moisture	Well drained sites but tolerates periodic wet soil conditions
Properties	Grows well on deep pumice soils in central North Island

SUMMARY OF GROWTH CHARACTERISTICS AT AGE 5

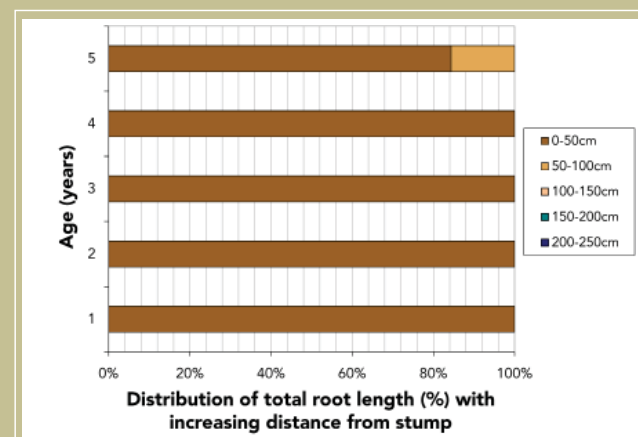
Mean Height	1.56 m
Mean canopy	1.14 m
Mean root spread	0.98 m
Mean max. root depth	0.26 m
Mean above-ground biomass	0.38 kg
Mean below-ground biomass	0.13 kg
Root:shoot ratio	0.43

Notes: Very slow growing, up to 12 m high with 26 cm diameter in 60 years. Hard, durable wood. Sheds foliage in winter.

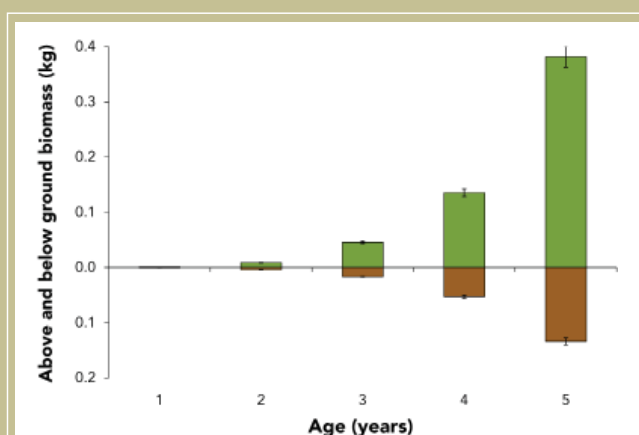
ROOT DEPTH



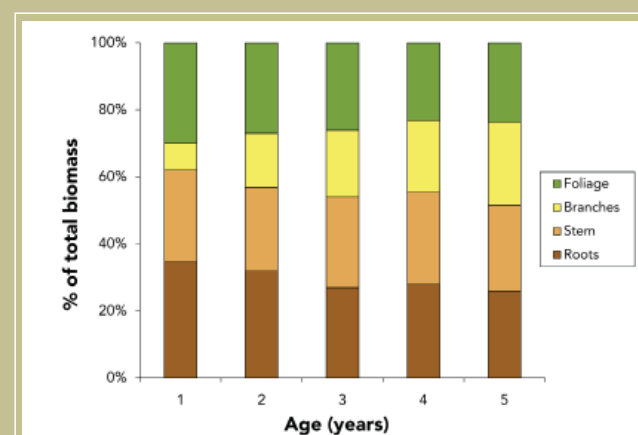
ROOT LENGTH DISTRIBUTION



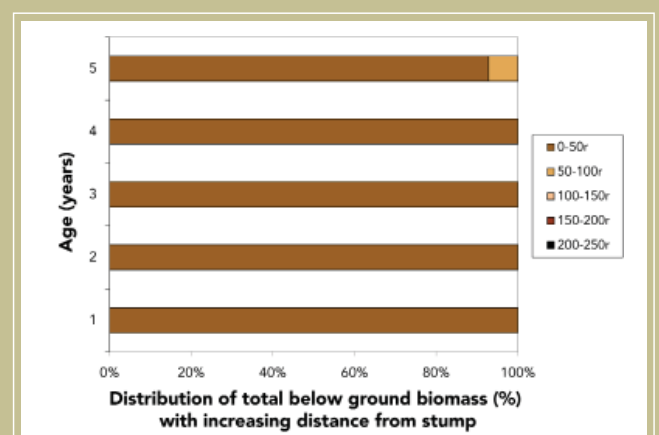
BIOMASS



TOTAL PLANT BIOMASS



ROOT BIOMASS DISTRIBUTION



REFERENCES

Bergin D, Gea L 2005. Native trees: planting and early management for wood production. New Zealand Indigenous Tree Bulletin No. 3. Rotorua, New Zealand, New Zealand Forest Research Institute. 44 p.

Salmon JT 1998. New Zealand native trees. Auckland, New Zealand, Reed Books. 228 p.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This research was funded by Foundation for Research Science & Technology Contract CO9X0305 "Integrated Catchment Management: Ridge Tops to the Sea". The authors acknowledge the assistance with field extraction and processing of plants by interns Maria Borlinghaus (Germany), Claire Butty (France), Sandra Viel (Germany), and Kaisa Valkonen (Finland), and Landcare Research staff Alex Watson, Richard Hemming, and Suzanne Lambie. Graphics by Nicolette Faville and edited by Anne Austin of Landcare Research.