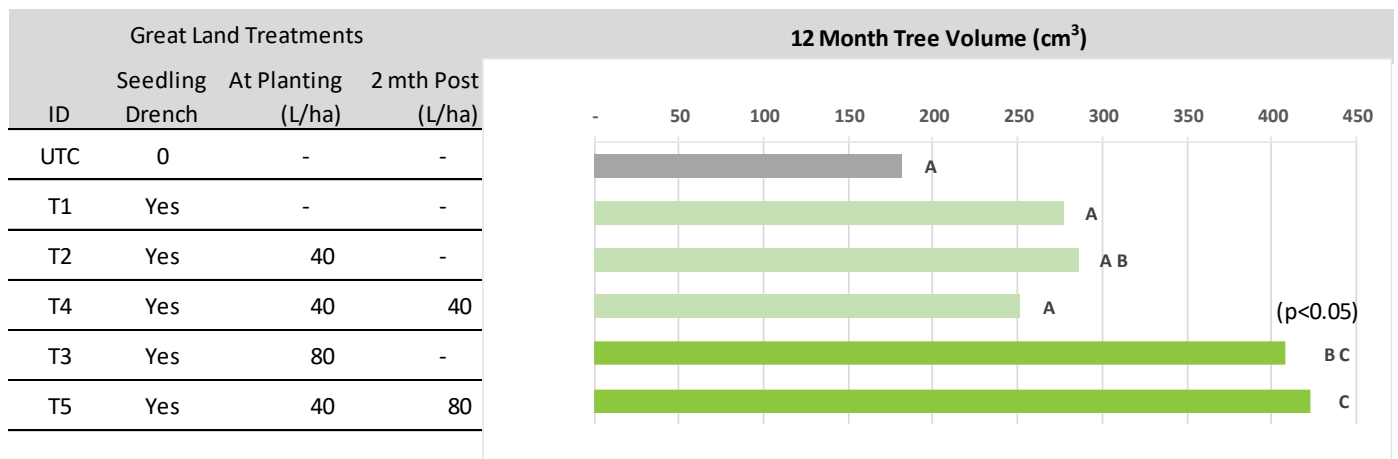


Eucalyptus Trial, Hamilton, Victoria – Independently Conducted by Weedensol*

- Aim:** To evaluate the growth response of Great Land (GL) in blue gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*) plantations.
- Design:** Randomised replicated trial with 4 replicates per treatment. Each replicate contained 10 trees planted in a 50m² plot. One tree strip was planted between treatments as a buffer.
- Treatments:** Six separate treatments, including untreated control (UTC), are described here and tabled below:
 ‘Seedling Drench’: seedling trays drenched in GL (diluted at 1 in 10) 48 hrs prior to planting.
 ‘At Planting’: GL sprayed just prior planting (same day) in a 2m strip, total sprayed liquid 190L/ha. Planting date 14-July 2015.
 ‘2 mth Post’: GL sprayed 2 months after planting in a 2m strip, total sprayed liquid 190L/ha. Treated 13-Sept 2015.
- Assessments:** Tree health/vigour, insect presence: post plant 2 months (Sep-15), 3 months (Oct-15), 6 months (Dec-15). Tree volume (cm³) at 12 months (Jun-16) and 24 months (abandoned due to conditions).
- Conditions:** Rainfall was lower than regional average. Soil moisture conditions varied throughout the trial area. Trial trees were planted several weeks prior to remainder of the plantation therefore subjected to higher than expected animal browsing pressure. Data analysis was only conducted on surviving trees (70 - 97% of total planted) to reduce the variability due to browsing loss. Weed control was effectively managed. Trial trees were not treated with ‘Shield’ (systemic insecticide).

Results:



Tree volume at 12 months was significantly greater for GL treatments at high rates of application. Economically, the most favourable treatment regime is T3 - seedling drench and one GL spray on soil @ 80L/ha at the time of planting.

Tree health/vigour scores at the high GL application rates (T3 and T5) were slightly greater than other treatments, however the differences were not significant.

- Conclusions:** The trial showed strong evidence of the positive effect of Great Land on tree growth measured at 12 months after planting. The study is worthy of further investigation given accepted positive associations between early tree development and ultimate harvest yield. Unfortunately, the planned 24 month assessment was abandoned due to ongoing effects of browsing losses on variability.

Additional trials will evaluate the most effective rate and timing of a single application, relative to planting.

* Weed & Environmental Solutions, Victoria. Full report available on request.

