Switchgrass variety trial

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

MICHIGAN AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

Lapeer County

Variety Trials

Other

County	**Lapeer**
Cooperator	**Huntsman Hunt Club**
Nearest town	**Lapeer**
Soil type	**Perrinton loam**
Planting date	**May 2007**
Weed control	**None in 2009**
Fertilizer	**None in 2009**
Exp. design	**RCB, 3 replications**

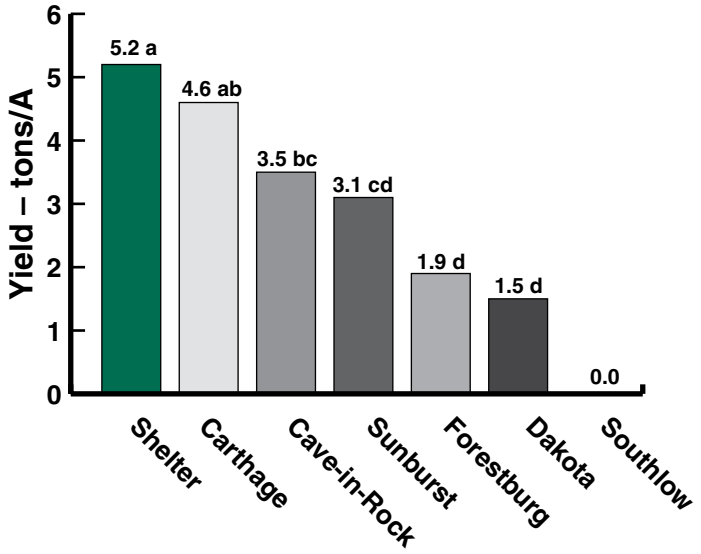
Purpose

Evaluate upland varieties of switchgrass for biofuel productivity.

Materials and methods

Randomized complete block design with three replications with six different varieties. Plots were planted in May 2007. Switchgrass was originally intended to provide pheasant habitat at the Huntsman Hunt Club in Lapeer. Switchgrass has not been harvested on any plots since it was established.

Variety	Yield (tons/A)
Shelter	5.2 a
Carthage	4.6 ab
Cave-in-Rock	3.5 bc
Sunburst	3.1 cd
Forestburg	1.9 d
Dakota	1.5 d
Southlow	0.0



Results and discussion

Shelter, Carthage and Cave-in-Rock varieties yielded the highest in this study. At the time of harvest, it was clear that Forestburg and Dakota had lower yields and reduced stands. Southlow did not persist—in fact, no biomass was taken in the Southlow plots.

Sponsored by Project GREEEN.

AoE FIELD CROPS TEAM

Dennis Pennington
Bioenergy Educator
KBS/MSUE Land & Water Unit
3700 E. Gull Lake Dr.
Hickory Corners, MI 49060
Phone: 269-671-2412
Email: pennin34@msu.edu