

Switchgrass - On-Farm Biomass for Bioenergy

Switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*)

- native, fast-growing warm-season (C₄) perennial grass.
- high net energy yield per acre and low cost of production.
- efficient use of marginal land and good water use efficiency.
- suited to existing farm equipment and practice.
- mod-high productivity.
- low maintenance.
- tolerates acidic soils.
- stand longevity.
- low NPK requirements.
- soil restoring properties.

Establishment

- poor seed quality.
- weed competition.
- one year⁺ for full crop.

Recommended Varieties

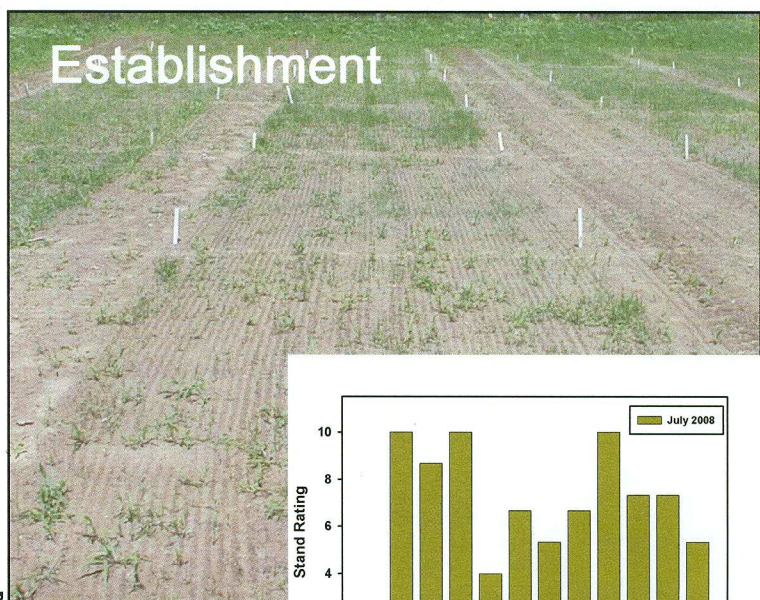
- Blackwell, Cave-in-Rock, Shawnee, Carthage, Shelter, Sunburst

Market Possibilities

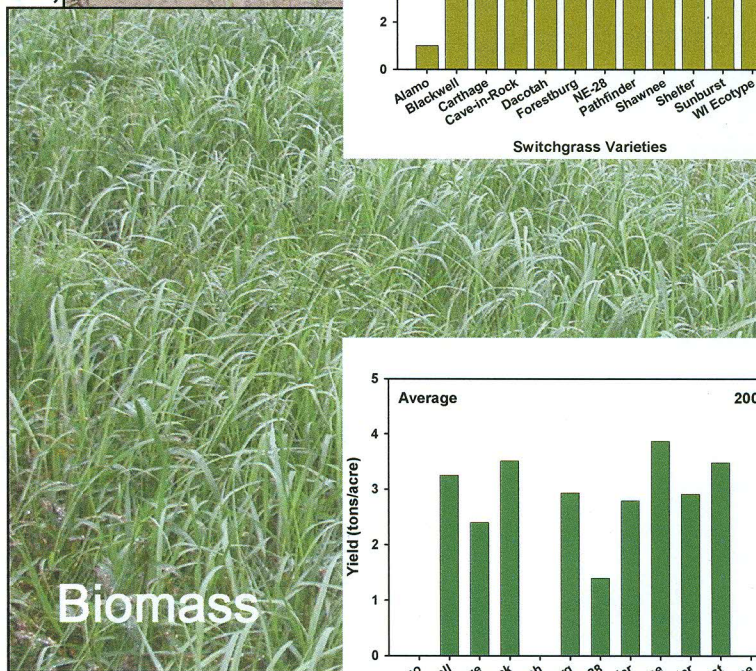
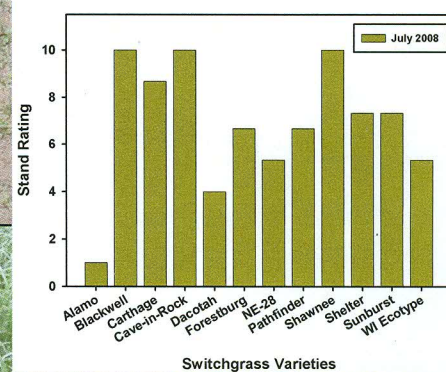
- hay-feed.
- pellets-heat (ash).
- biofuel for ethanol.

Switchgrass Projects

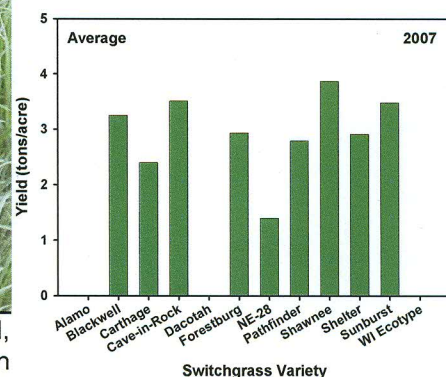
- Establishment and variety evaluation. (Funded by Mass DAR)
- Costs of production. (Funded by Mass. DOER)



Establishment



Biomass



Stephen Herbert, Randall Prostek and Dan Forberg Dept. of Plant, Soil, Insect Sciences, and Timothy Randhir, Dept. of Resource Conservation