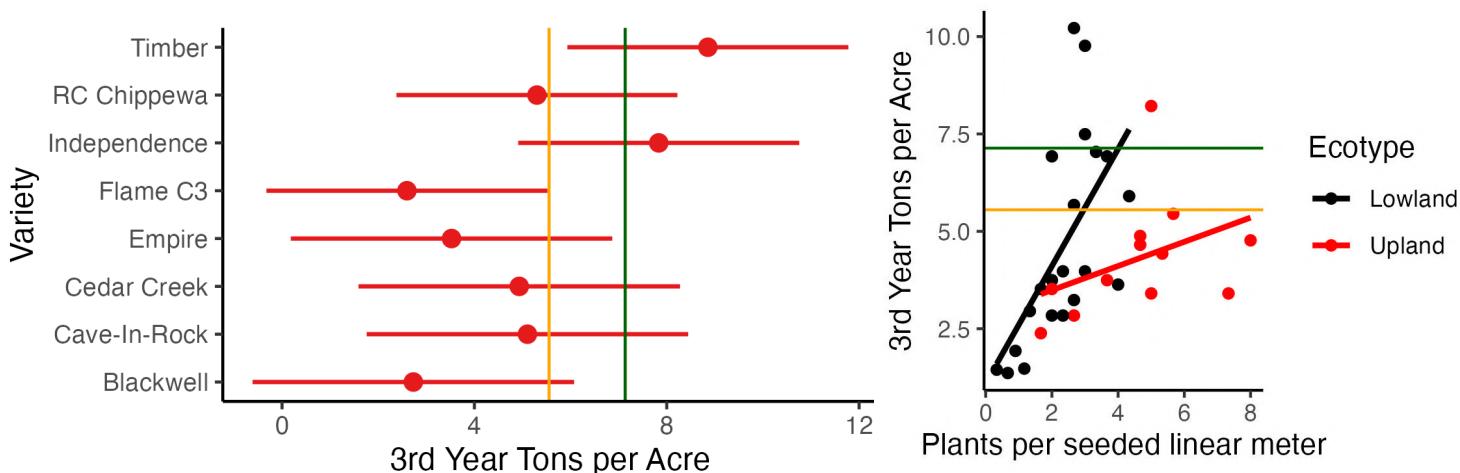




Results from an on-farm trial of improved native grass varieties

There are many potential switchgrass and big bluestem varieties. This includes multiple improved lowland switchgrass cultivars may have superior yield but are less cold tolerant.

To test promising new grass cultivars, AWSGP producers established replicated trials of eight switchgrass cultivars across three farm fields. The three sites were in the same township, but had a range of soil depths and weed pressure, so these results should be informative for producers growing in other sites.



Left: Yields of eight cultivars across three sites. The vertical lines indicate the average yield of fully established upland (orange) and lowland (green) switchgrass production fields. Red bars indicate 95% confidence intervals.

Right: the relationship between establishment success and 3rd year yield for upland and lowland switchgrass.

Conclusions

- Average 2nd year yield was 1.19 tons per acre, but 3rd year was over 4 tons per acre.
- In the third year, Timber and Independence produced an average of 40% more biomass than the next best upland switchgrass cultivars (RC Chippewa and Cave-In-Rock).



This material is based upon work supported by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, through the Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program under subaward number ONE22-428.