

Crape "Murder"

A thick, horizontal yellow brushstroke underline that spans the width of the slide, positioned directly beneath the title.

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and
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What's the
"right" way
to prune?



Crape "Murder":

Crape Myrtle

Growth, Flowering and
Maintenance as affected by
Three Pruning Methods

Plants Used:

- ⌘ Natchez (*L. indica x fauriei*)
- ⌘ Carolina Beauty (*L. indica*)
- ⌘ 38 of each were planted
Feb. 1994
- ⌘ Unpruned

Plants Used:



- ⌘ All trees pruned to thin main stems and remove crossing branches in March 1998
- ⌘ Pruning treatments applied March 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2001

Questions to Answer:

- ⌘ *How much work does each pruning method require?*
- ⌘ *How much after-care is needed during the summer?*
- ⌘ *What is the impact on flowering and growth?*

Pruning Treatments:

⌘ Topped
“crape murder”
Year 1



Pruning Treatments:

⌘ Topped
“crape murder”
Year 3



Pruning Treatments:

⌘ Pollarded



Pruning Treatments:

⌘ Pollarded
Year 1



Pruning Treatments:

⌘ Pollarded
Year 3



Pruning Treatments:

⌘ Pencil-
pruned



Pruning Treatments:

⌘ Unpruned



Pruning Treatments:



- ⌘ Topped “crape murder”
- ⌘ Pollarded
- ⌘ Pencil-pruned
- ⌘ Unpruned



Topped



Pollarded



Pencil-pruned



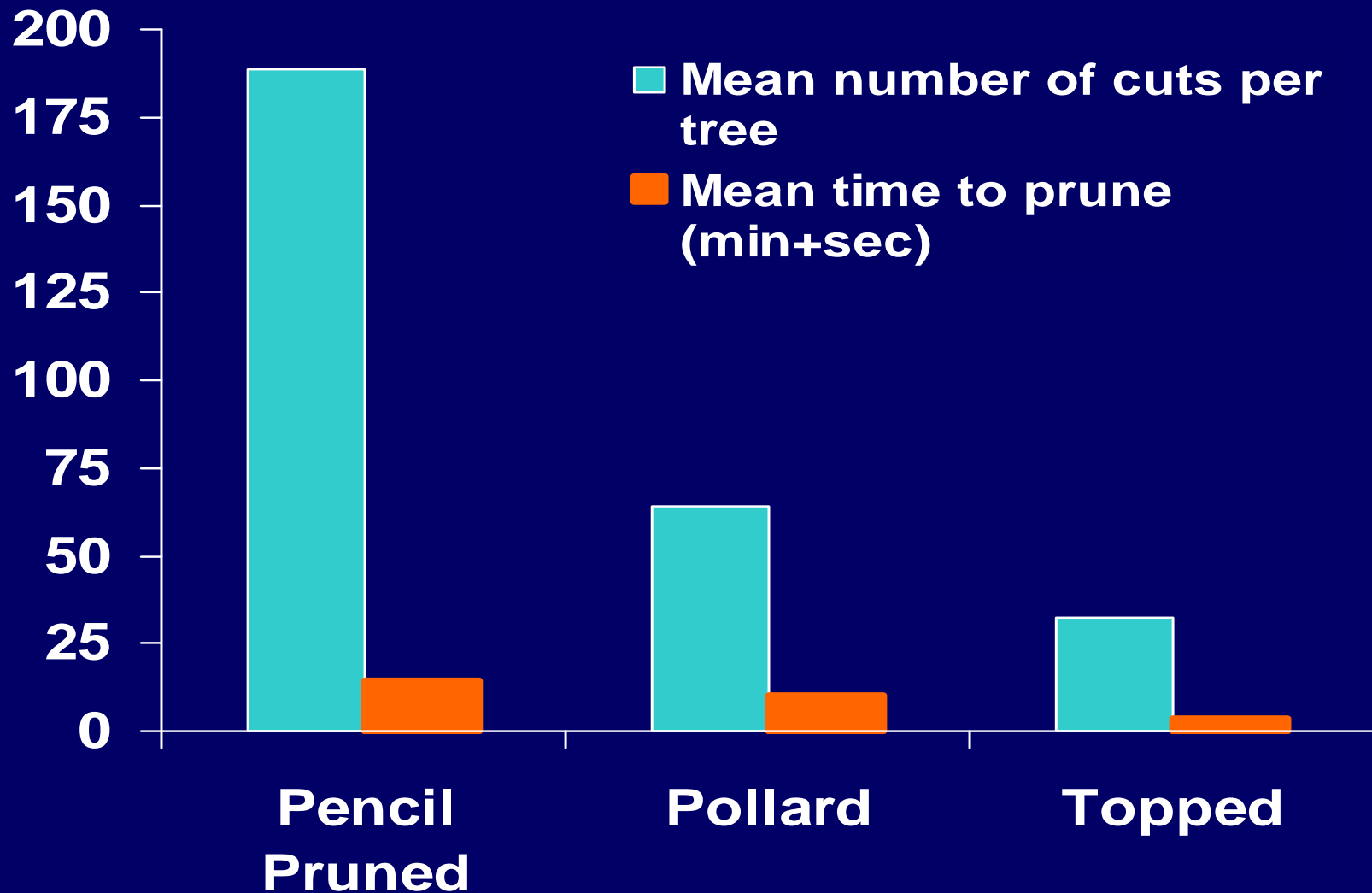
Unpruned

How much work does each pruning method require?

Data collected:

- ⌘ Time to perform pruning
- ⌘ Number of cuts made
- ⌘ Average diameter of pruning cuts

Time and Number of Cuts for each Pruning Treatment, 1999



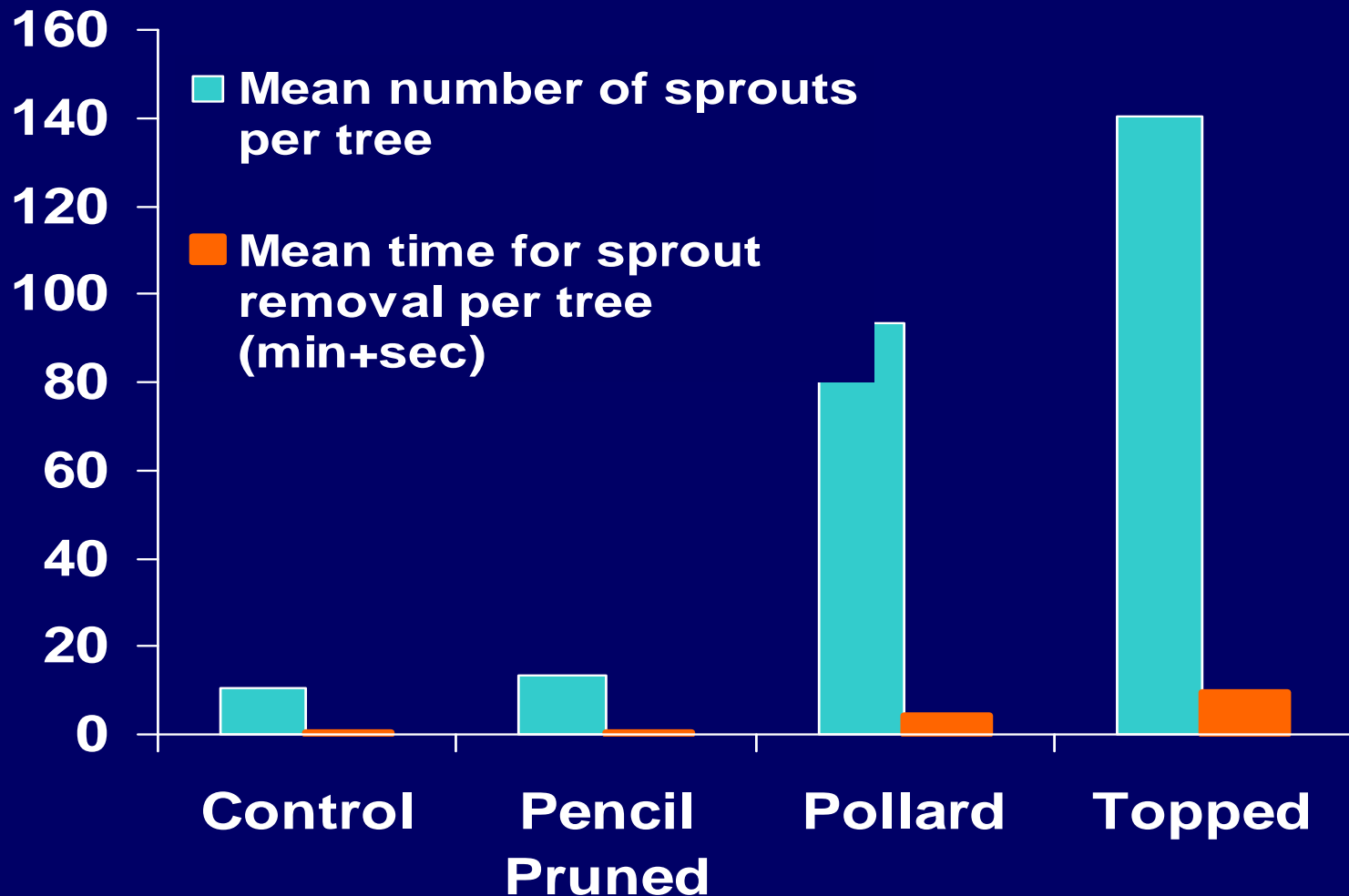
Data for both cultivars

How much after-care is needed during the summer?

Data Collected:

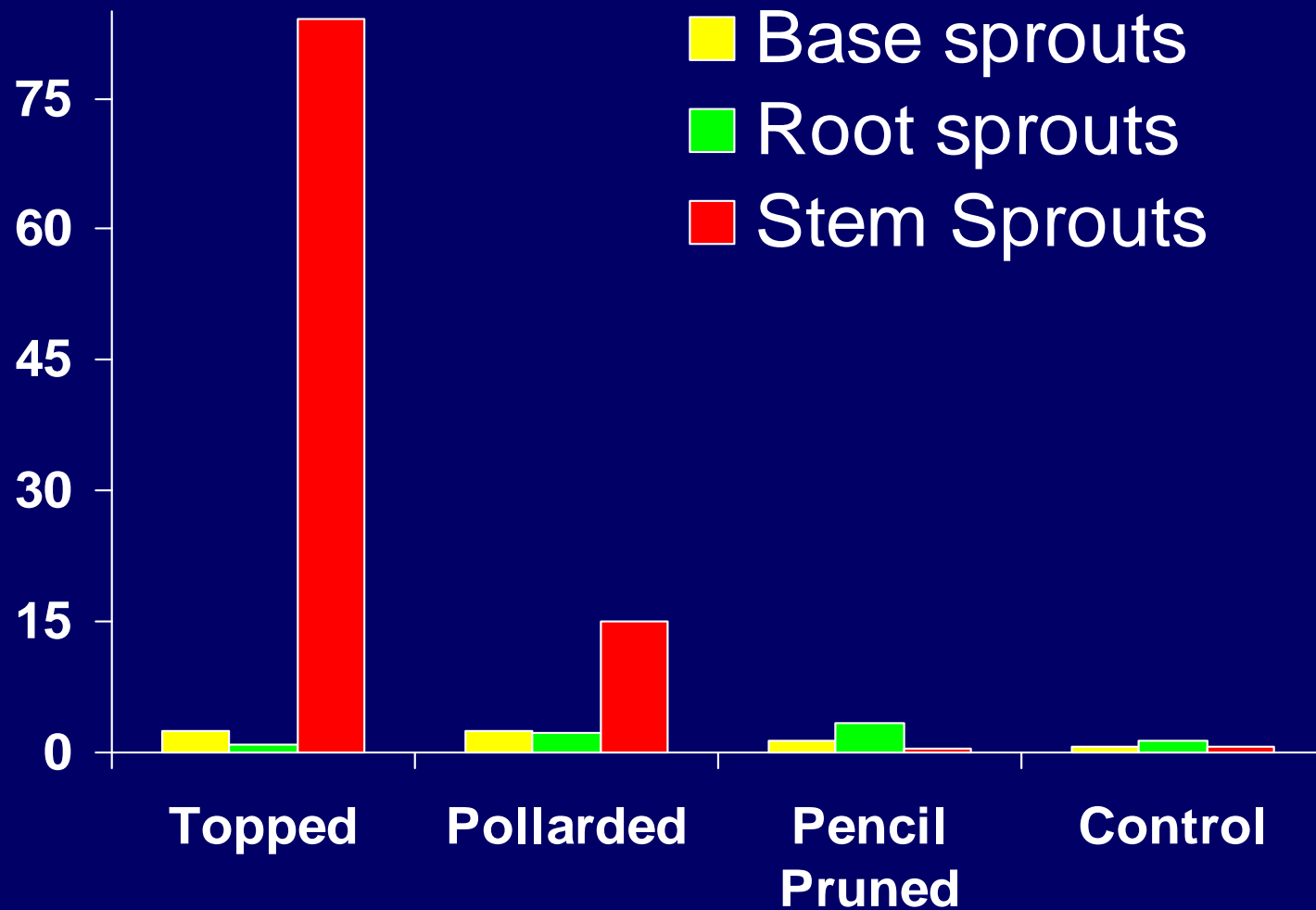
- ⌘ Number of stem, basal and root sprouts in June/July and August/September
- ⌘ Time required to remove sprouts

Number of Sprouts and Time to Remove Sprouts by Pruning Treatment, 1998



From sprout pruning performed July and September 1998; Data for both cultivars

Number of Basal, Root and Stem Sprouts, September 1998

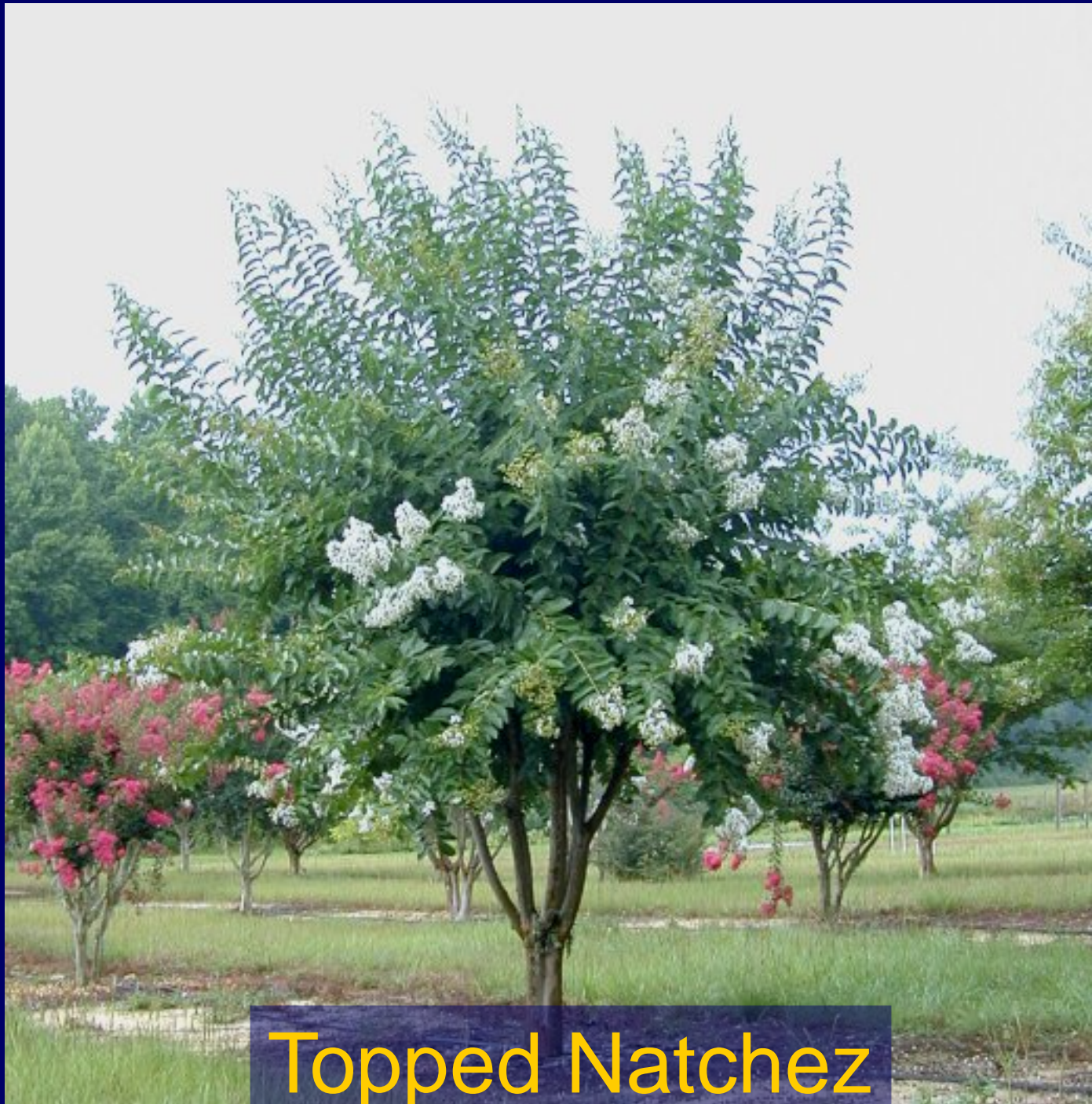


Data for both cultivars

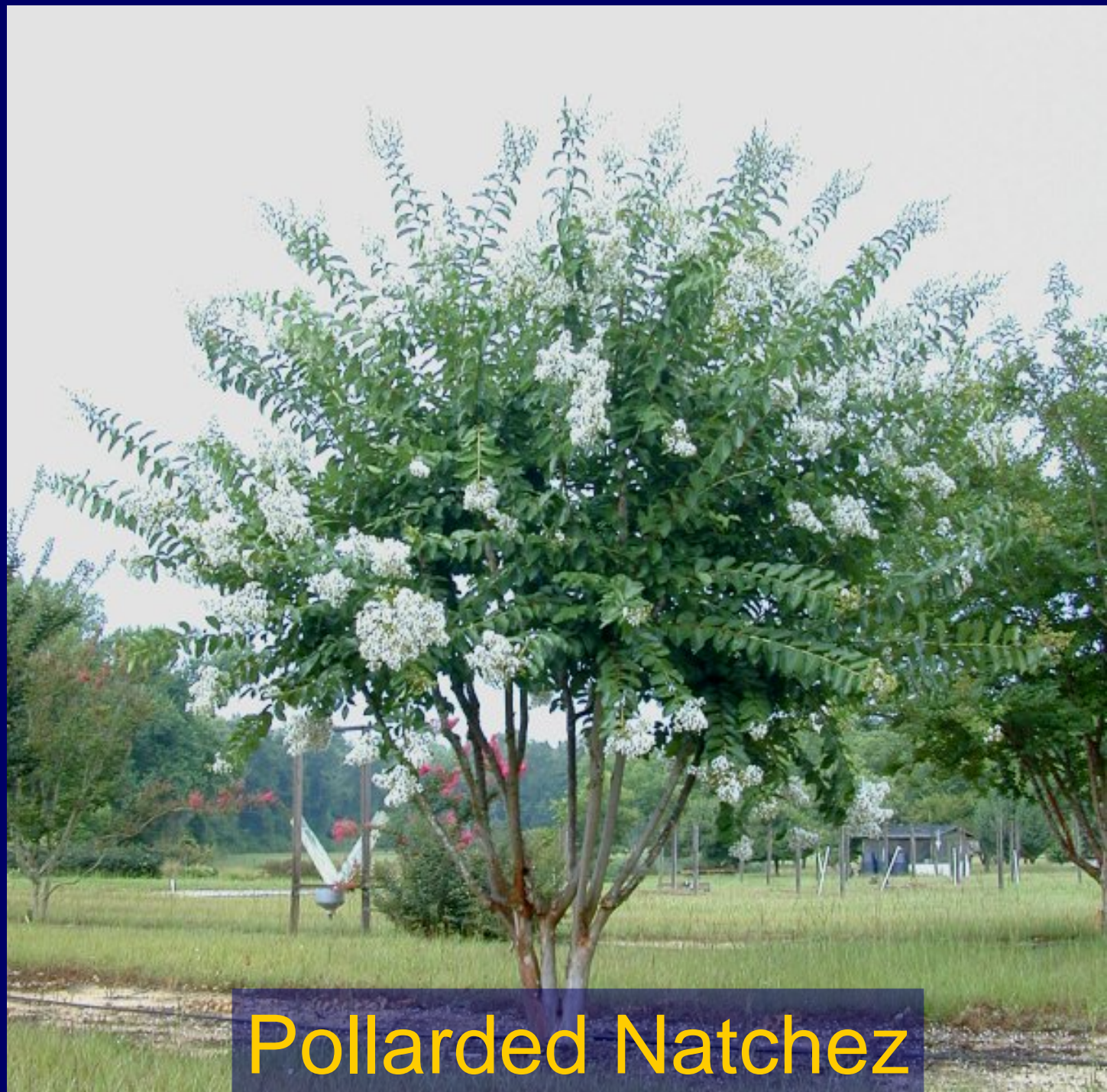
What is the impact on flowering and growth?

Data Collected:

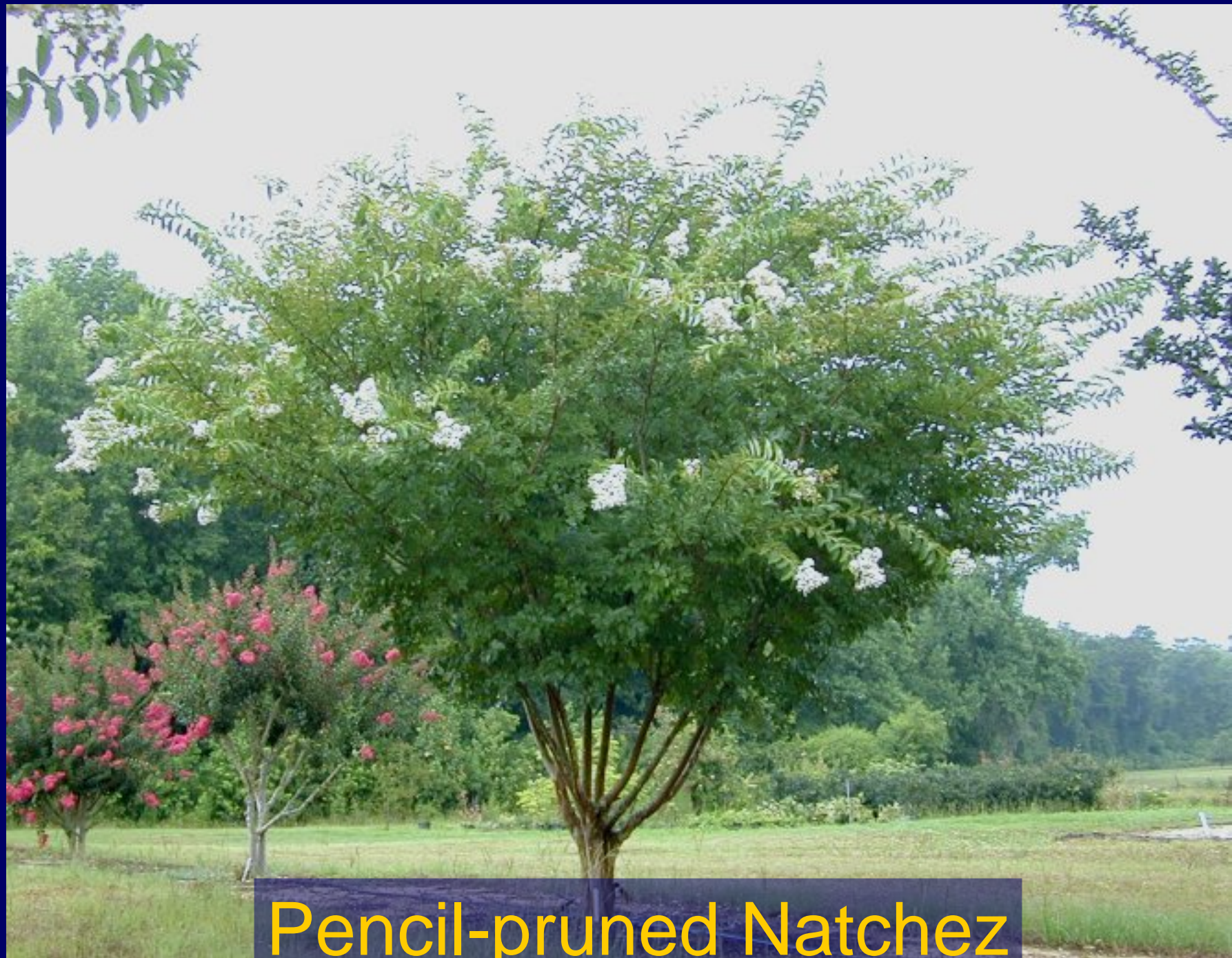
- ⌘ Date of first flower and duration of flowering
- ⌘ Number of flower panicles per week
- ⌘ Size of flower panicles at peak bloom
- ⌘ Regrowth



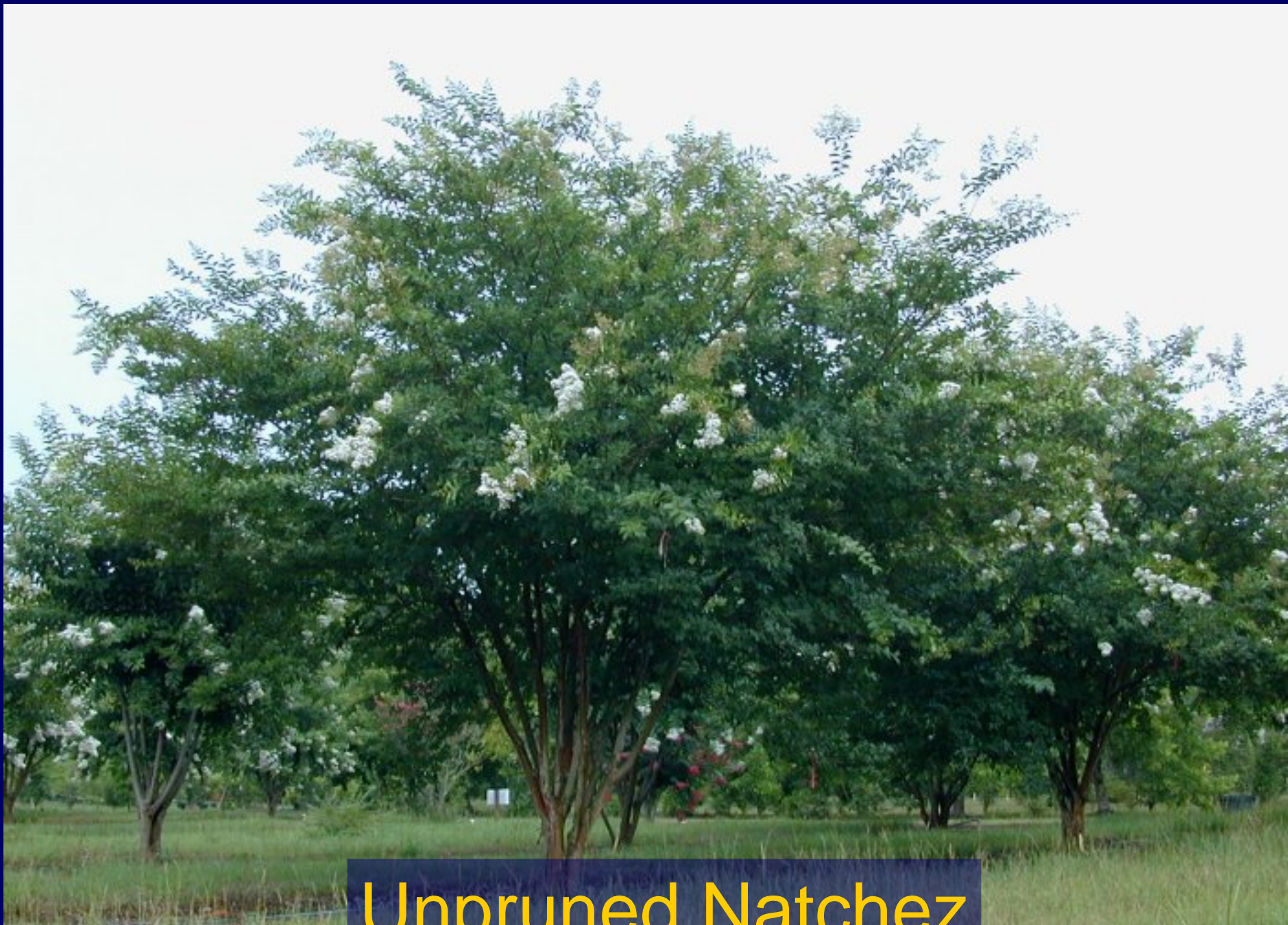
Topped Natchez



Pollarded Natchez



Pencil-pruned Natchez



Unpruned Natchez



Topped Carolina Beauty



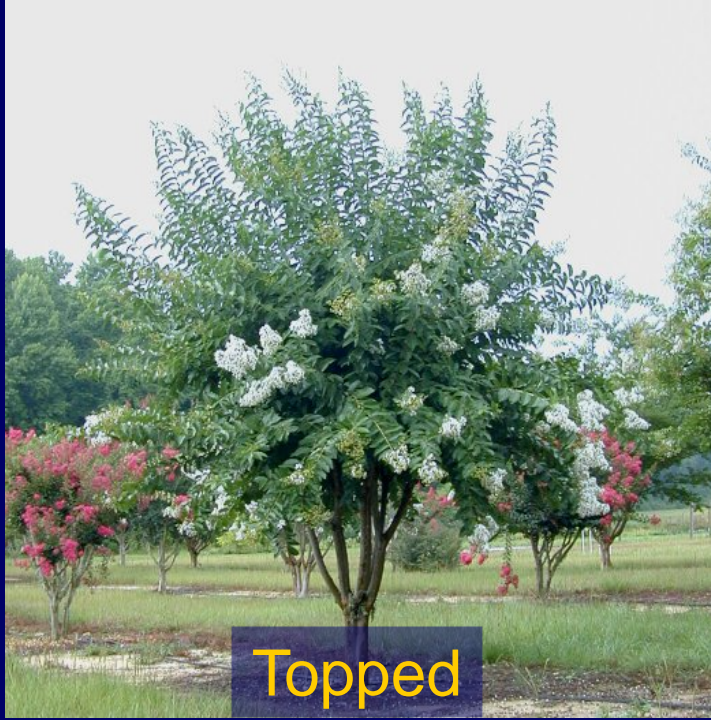
Pollarded Carolina Beauty



Pencil-pruned Carolina Beauty



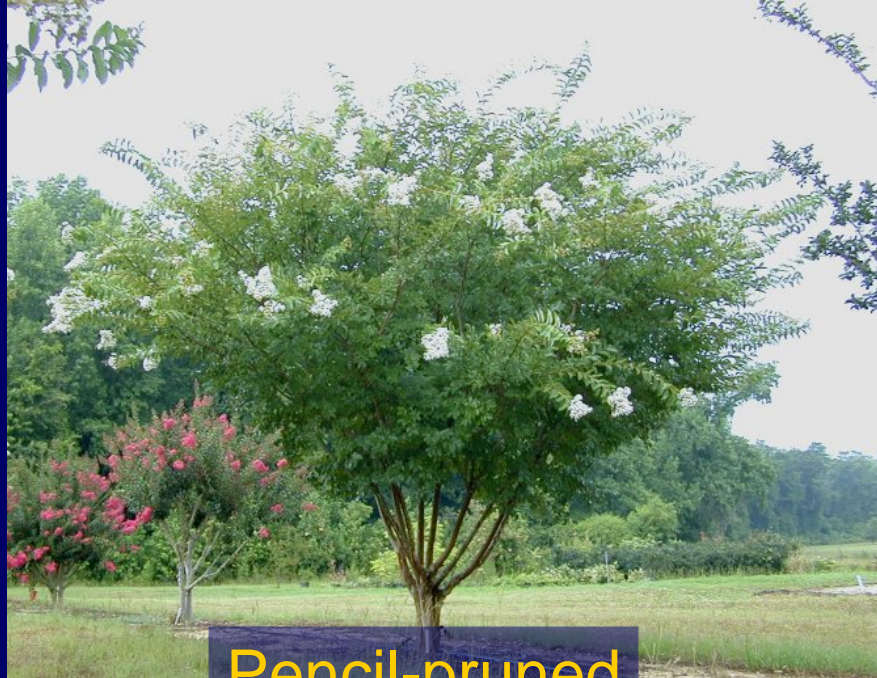
Unpruned Carolina Beauty



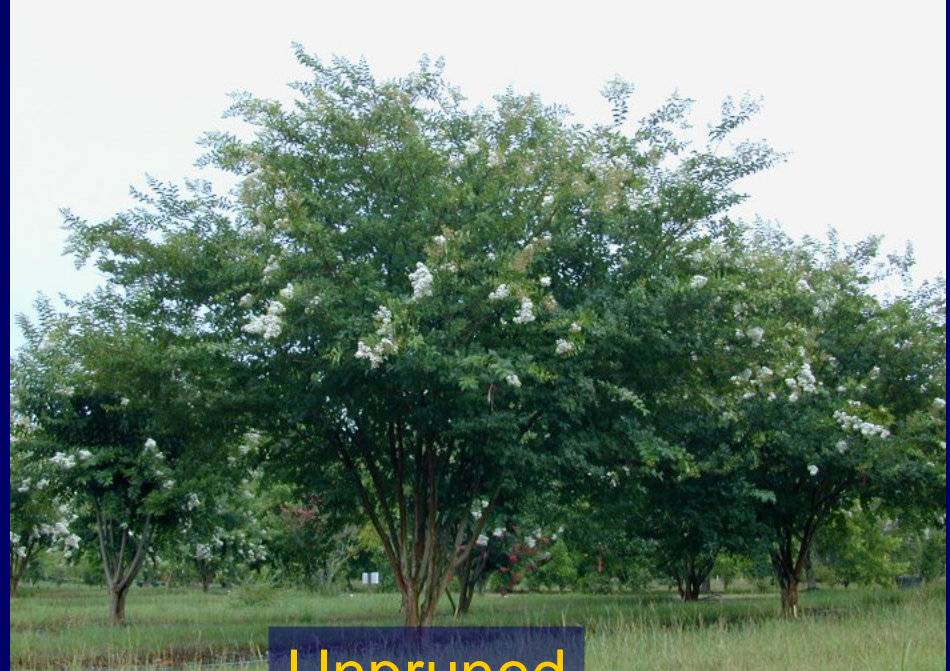
Topped



Pollarded



Pencil-pruned



Unpruned

Topped



Pollarded



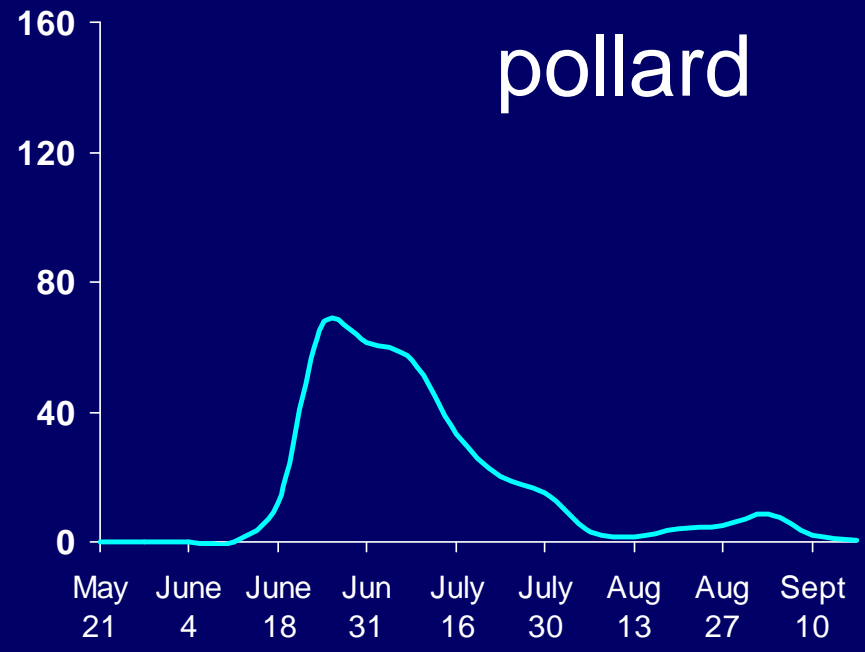
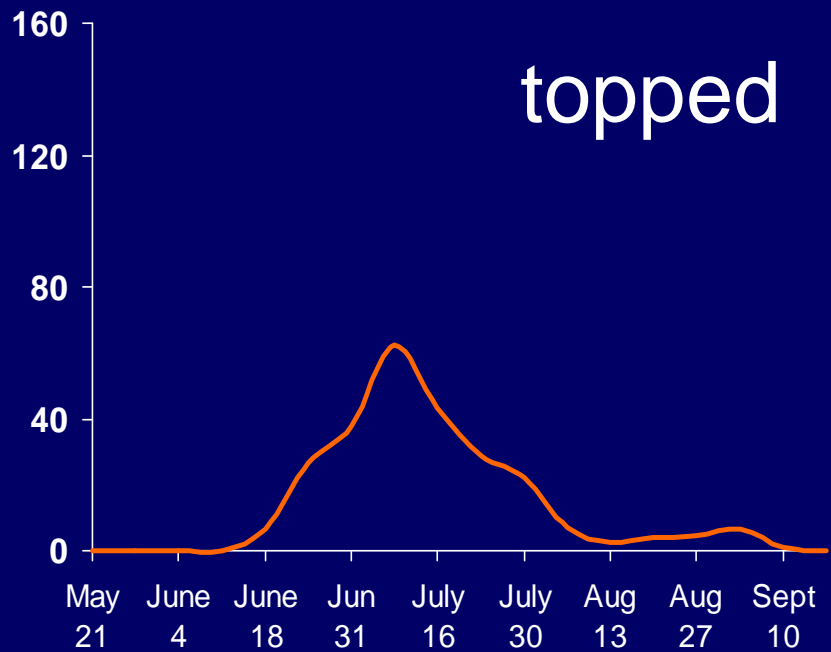
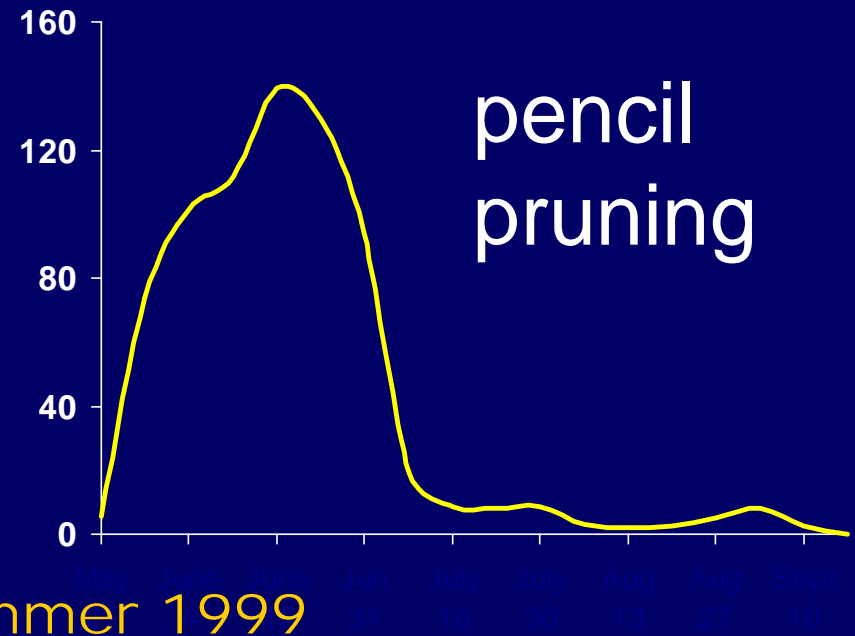
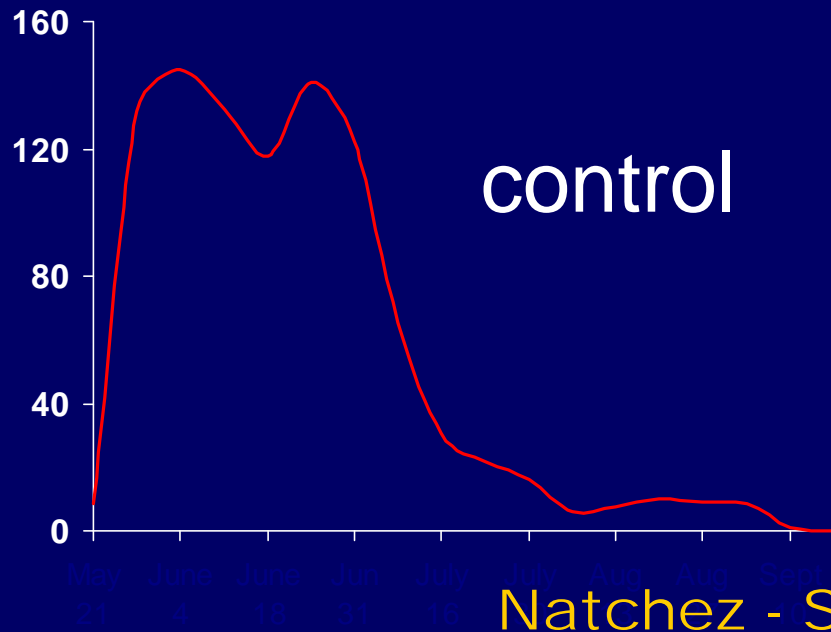
Pencil-pruned



Unpruned



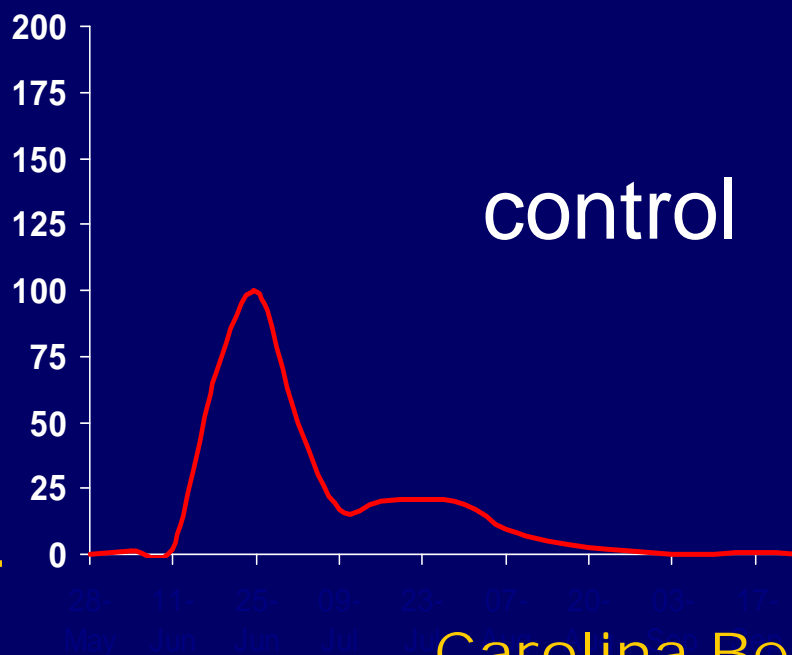
Number of flower panicles



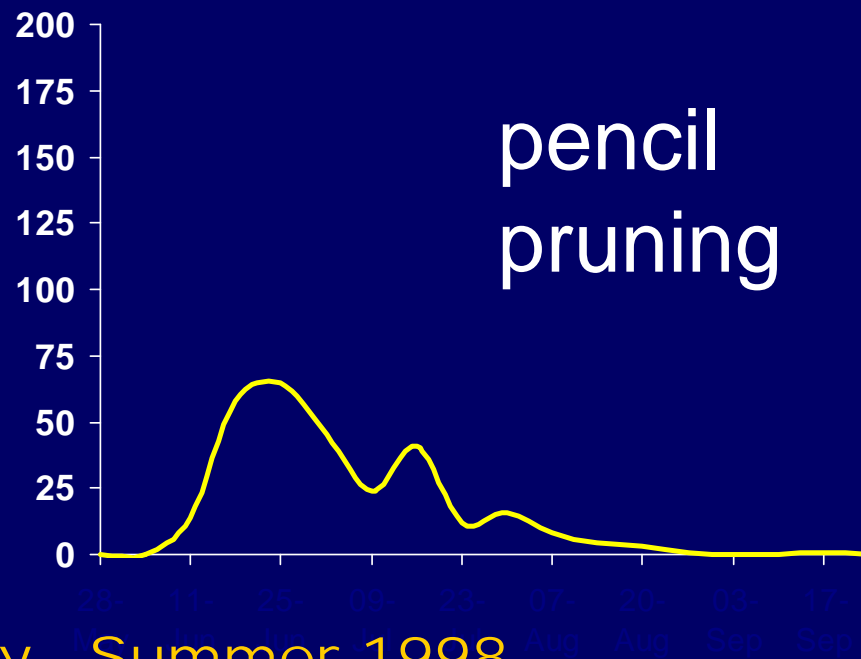
Natchez - Summer 1999

Number of flower panicles

control

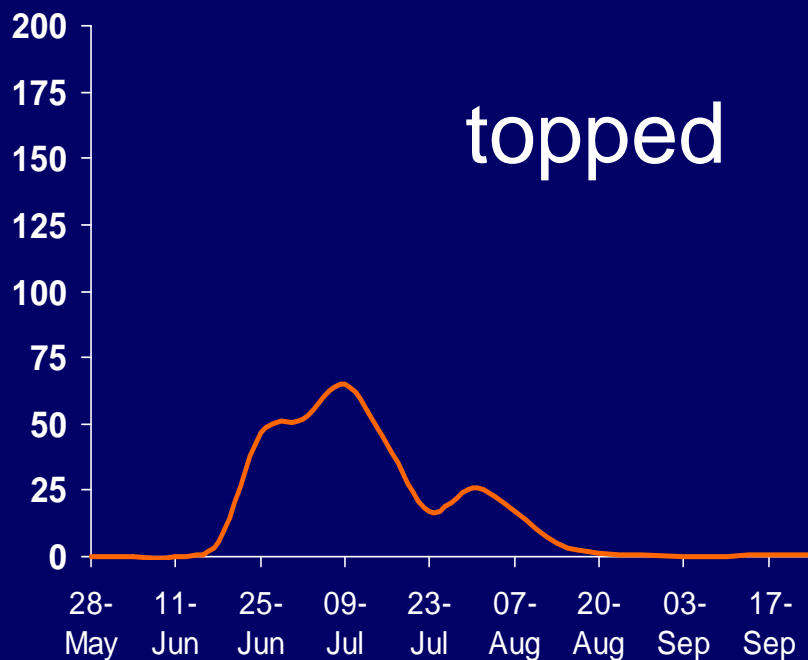


pencil
pruning

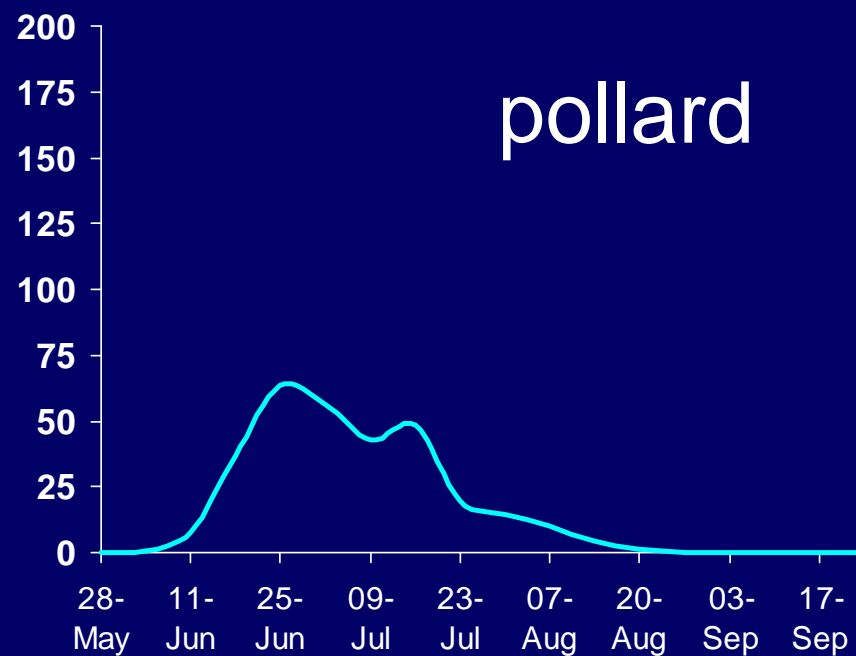


Carolina Beauty - Summer 1998

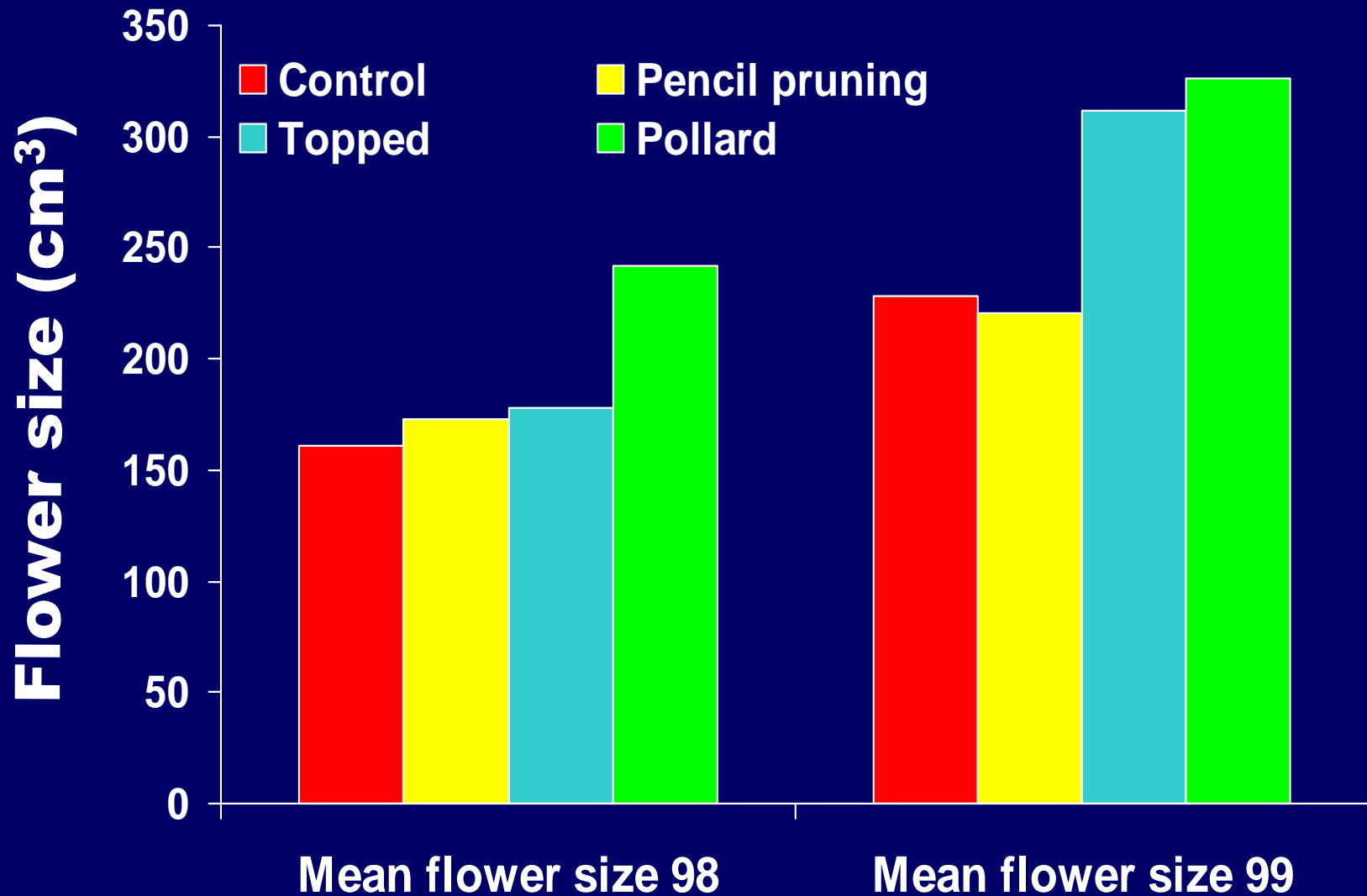
topped



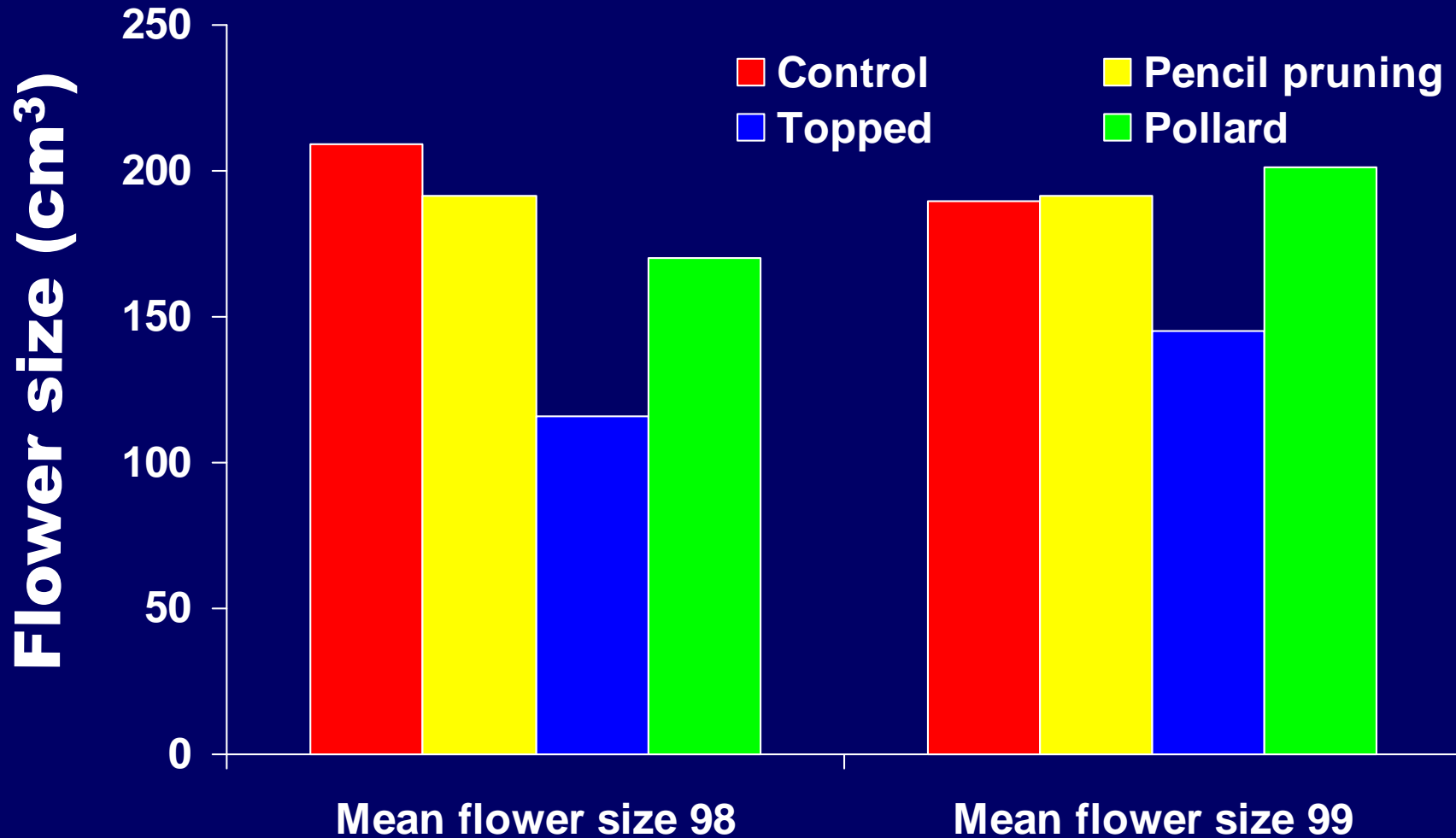
pollard



Natchez



Carolina Beauty



Generalizations Thus Far:



- ⌘ Unpruned trees require the least overall “work”
- ⌘ Pencil-pruning and Pollarding take more time than Topping
- ⌘ Topping and Pollarding stimulate more sprouts; I.e., the harder you prune, the more you stimulate sprouting

Generalizations Thus Far:



- ⌘ The harder you prune, the more you delay flowering
- ⌘ Natchez: Hard pruning reduces number of flowers and slightly increases flower size
- ⌘ Carolina Beauty: Pruning had no clear effect on number of flowers; topping reduced flower size

What's the "right" way to prune?

It depends on:

- ⌘ Amount of time available for winter pruning
- ⌘ Skill of the the worker
- ⌘ Desired plant size
- ⌘ Preferred winter appearance



Topped



Pollarded



Pencil-pruned

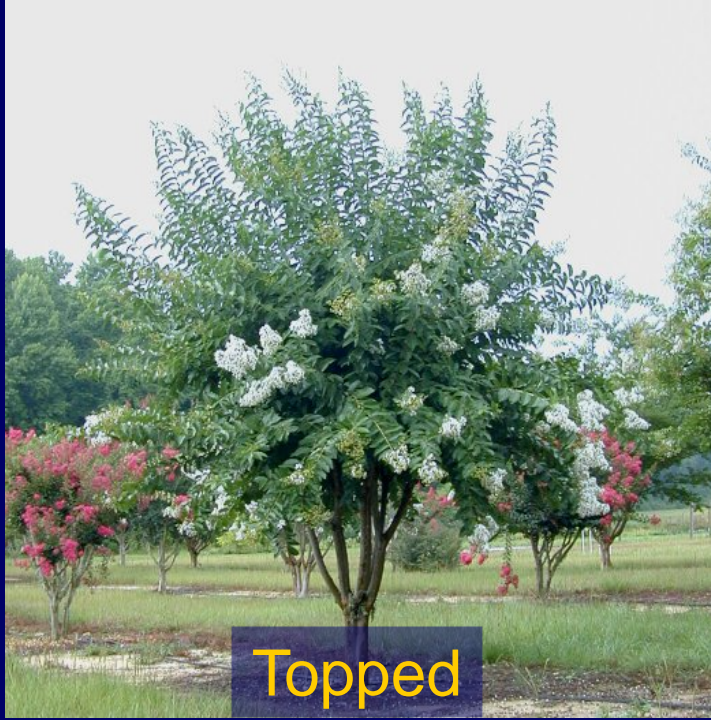


Unpruned

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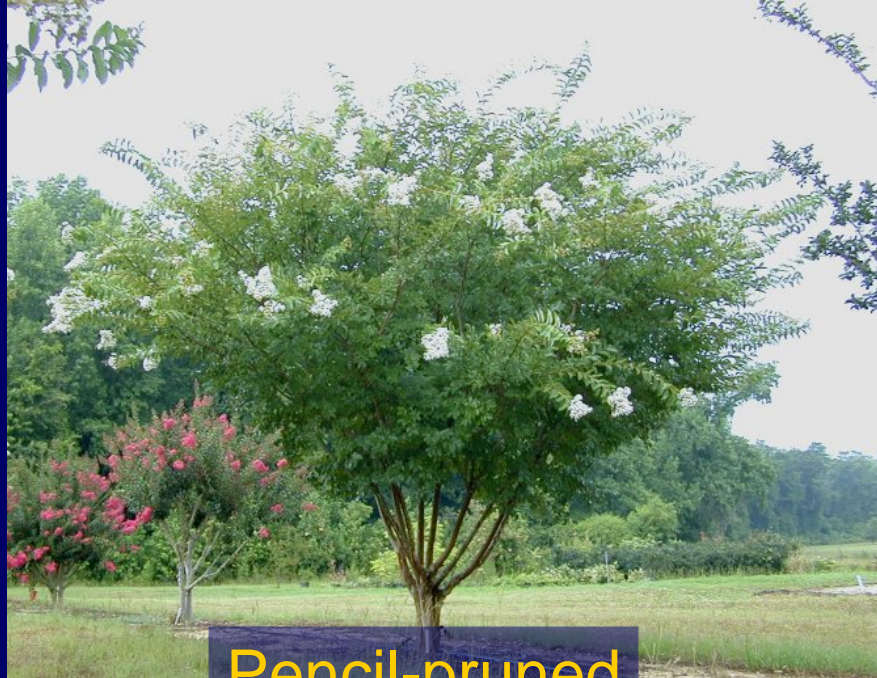
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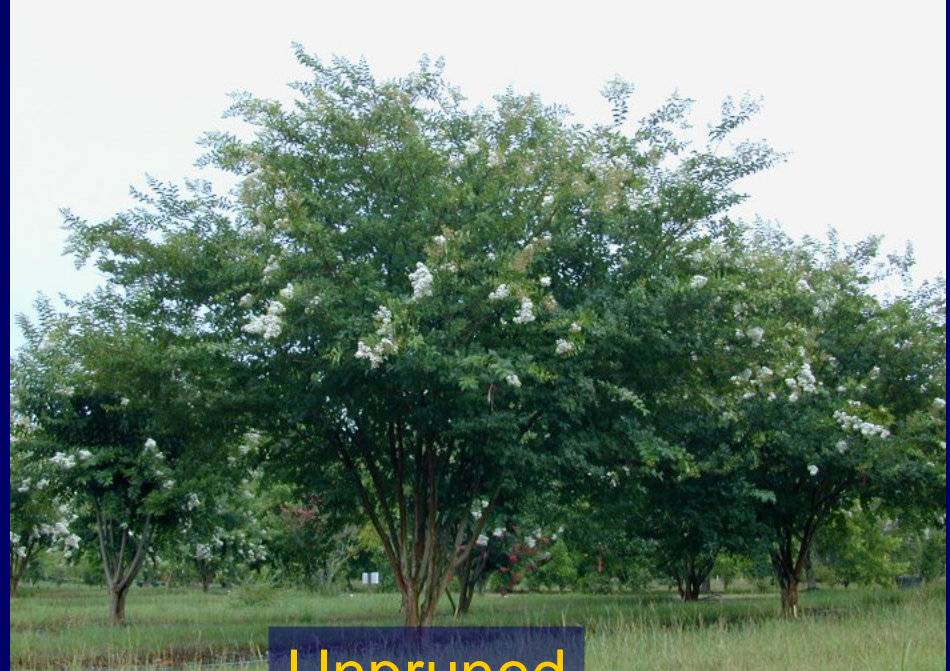
Topped



Pollarded



Pencil-pruned



Unpruned

What's the "right" way to prune?

Recommendations:

- ⌘ To avoid constant, severe pruning, plant the right-sized cultivar for the plant's location in the landscape
- ⌘ To minimize plant structural damage and risk of disease, leave plants unpruned
- ⌘ Otherwise prune according to your preferences for winter appearance and summer appearance

Crape "Murder"

A thick, horizontal yellow brushstroke underline that spans the width of the slide, positioned directly beneath the title.

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