

General Notes & Comments

Will i-Tree ever be made Mac compatible?

No, can be run on a Mac via hard drive partition or virtually by using Parallels or similar software.

Interest was shown in having a seminar or forum on the i-Tree tools site about how this can be done.

Will the standardized data become a requirement?

Was mentioned that it would be very convenient for data sharing if it were to become a standard.

Consensus was yes, it will probably become a standard required by government when working on state or federally funded projects.

How will this effect software companies who sell products that have unique competitive advantages. (much concern was voiced by the software reps in the audience).

It shouldn't have a negative effect on software companies, there are only certain things that can be measured when doing an inventory, none of which are "unique competitive advantages"

This will not prevent people from using different software

Concern was voiced by the software representatives that the standardization could possibly skew standards towards certain software packages or how programs must take data.

An extractor can be designed

Standardization will not skew standards to better suite one company or product, it will only change how the variables are measured

Will the standardization tie in with the International Tree Failure Database (ITFD)?

Yes, we need to involve and look at the ITFD and other databases to see how current data is being collected and formatted.

Can risk assessment inputs be standardized?

Concerns about the title 'Condition/ Tree Health' category name

Could this be changed to Stability and Tree Health to differentiate between the structural tree and the biological tree.

Yes this can be done, the groups were formed as a general outline and can change

Is this just tree based or will it also affect ecosystem metrics

It will include plot measurements as well, not the just the tree
Site, location, site condition and traffic load are examples

When valuating the trees, are all of the groups are overlapped

The variables which are used as inputs in CTLA or other valuation methods must be standardized and included.

It was asked how much of the audience was involved in tree inventory software or do inventories on a regular basis

40%-50% raised their hands

Why does this data need to be standardized, what are you going to do with it?

All of the variables to be standardized must have merit

Will promote data sharing for scientific and commercial use

Allow users to share freeware and applications

It was brought up that you must look at and separate inputs and outputs - English or metric?

Should we separate the easy and hard inputs and outputs?

We are looking at input standardization, not output

Should we go metric?

Private developers voice concern:

Has research been skewed to promote i-TREE?

Is this management based, research based or maintenance based?

Feeling that software developers must be involved in this process to ensure fair treatment

What are the issues surrounding protocols?

Published techniques

Record the qualifications of those collecting data

Must have quality assurance during collection to ensure good data

Will not standardize a minimum qualification for data collection, in order to not exclude the important volunteers

Must be able to communicate with groups and countries who currently may have other standards

Are we talking about yes/no or %, using an example of girdling roots, yes no is subjective, and percent is hard to measure

A number of the data fields must be measured numerically and others with yes/no answers