

## Supplementary Materials: Sub-Soiling and Genotype Selection Improves *Populus* Productivity Grown on a North Carolina Sandy Soil

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**Table S1.** Mean relative percent difference and one standard deviation (SD) for duplicate parameter measurements collected. LAI, Leaf Area Index.

| Parameter                 | <i>n</i> | Relative Percent Difference |      |
|---------------------------|----------|-----------------------------|------|
|                           |          | Mean                        | SD   |
| Height                    | 59       | 1.7%                        | 5.7% |
| Basal Diameter            | 59       | 5.4%                        | 14%  |
| Diameter at Breast Height | 59       | 2.5%                        | 5.6% |
| LAI                       | 4        | 7.1%                        | 6.2% |
| % Nitrogen                | 8        | 7.0%                        | 5.0% |
| Chlorophyll Content       | 8        | 15%                         | 17%  |

**Table S2.** Number of planted trees, number of living trees, percent survival, percent mortality, mean height and one standard deviation (SD), mean basal diameter and SD, total volume, and mean volume and SD for trees planted in April 2014. Means are listed by overall performance (combined), and then partitioned by soil tillage treatment.

| Parent Species      | Genotype   | Treatment  | Total Planted | Height (m) |          |           |      | DBH (cm) |      |       | Volume (dm <sup>3</sup> ) |      |    |
|---------------------|------------|------------|---------------|------------|----------|-----------|------|----------|------|-------|---------------------------|------|----|
|                     |            |            |               | Alive      | Survival | Mortality | Mean | SD       | Mean | SD    | Total                     | Mean | SD |
| P. <i>deltoides</i> | 140        | Combined   | 384           | 305        | 79%      | 21%       | 5.9  | 1.4      | 5.4  | 2.2   | 8533                      | 33   | 20 |
|                     |            | Disked     | 192           | 137        | 71%      | 29%       | 5.7  | 1.3      | 5.0  | 2.1   | 3398                      | 29   | 17 |
|                     |            | Sub-soiled | 192           | 168        | 88%      | 13%       | 6.1  | 1.4      | 5.7  | 2.2   | 5135                      | 28   | 21 |
|                     | 176        | Combined   | 96            | 78         | 81%      | 19%       | 6.1  | 1.3      | 6.3  | 2.1   | 2597                      | 25   | 18 |
|                     |            | Disked     | 48            | 39         | 81%      | 19%       | 6.0  | 1.2      | 5.7  | 2.1   | 1126                      | 31   | 23 |
|                     |            | Sub-soiled | 48            | 39         | 81%      | 19%       | 6.2  | 1.4      | 6.8  | 2.0   | 1471                      | 38   | 22 |
| 356                 | Combined   | 96         | 77            | 80%        | 20%      | 5.8       | 1.3  | 5.5      | 2.1  | 2328  | 30                        | 22   |    |
|                     |            | Disked     | 48            | 35         | 73%      | 27%       | 5.7  | 1.3      | 5.5  | 2.4   | 1040                      | 30   | 23 |
|                     | Sub-soiled | 48         | 42            | 88%        | 13%      | 5.9       | 1.3  | 5.5      | 1.8  | 1288  | 31                        | 21   |    |
|                     |            | Combined   | 96            | 82         | 85%      | 15%       | 6.5  | 1.2      | 5.3  | 2.0   | 2295                      | 28   | 20 |
|                     | Disked     | 48         | 37            | 77%        | 23%      | 6.0       | 1.3  | 4.6      | 1.5  | 833.9 | 23                        | 14   |    |

| 373                                   | Sub-soiled | 48  | 45  | 94%  | 6%  | 6.9 | 1.0  | 5.9 | 2.1 | 1461   | 32  | 23  |
|---------------------------------------|------------|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|--------|-----|-----|
|                                       | Combined   | 96  | 68  | 71%  | 29% | 5.2 | 1.5  | 4.4 | 2.1 | 1313   | 19  | 21  |
|                                       | Disked     | 48  | 26  | 54%  | 46% | 4.9 | 1.1  | 3.9 | 1.9 | 398.5  | 15  | 15  |
|                                       | Sub-soiled | 48  | 42  | 88%  | 13% | 5.3 | 1.6  | 4.7 | 2.3 | 914.4  | 22  | 24  |
| <i>P. deltoides × P. maximowiczii</i> | Combined   | 96  | 90  | 94%  | 6%  | 5.5 | 1.2  | 4.8 | 1.6 | 2109   | 23  | 18  |
|                                       | Disked     | 48  | 44  | 92%  | 8%  | 5.7 | 1.3  | 5.1 | 1.6 | 1136   | 26  | 14  |
|                                       | Sub-soiled | 48  | 46  | 96%  | 4%  | 5.4 | 1.1  | 4.6 | 1.5 | 973.6  | 21  | 20  |
| 230                                   | Combined   | 96  | 90  | 94%  | 6%  | 5.5 | 1.2  | 4.8 | 1.6 | 2109   | 23  | 18  |
|                                       | Disked     | 48  | 44  | 92%  | 8%  | 5.7 | 1.3  | 5.1 | 1.6 | 1136   | 26  | 14  |
|                                       | Sub-soiled | 48  | 46  | 96%  | 4%  | 5.4 | 1.1  | 4.6 | 1.5 | 973.6  | 21  | 20  |
| <i>P. trichocarpa × P. deltoides</i>  | Combined   | 480 | 414 | 86%  | 14% | 5.0 | 1.2  | 4.2 | 1.8 | 6832   | 17  | 15  |
|                                       | Disked     | 240 | 204 | 85%  | 15% | 4.7 | 1.1  | 3.9 | 1.7 | 2824   | 14  | 13  |
|                                       | Sub-soiled | 240 | 210 | 88%  | 13% | 5.2 | 1.3  | 4.5 | 1.9 | 4008   | 19  | 17  |
| 185                                   | Combined   | 96  | 85  | 89%  | 11% | 5.9 | 1.3  | 5.4 | 1.9 | 2483   | 30  | 21  |
|                                       | Disked     | 48  | 39  | 81%  | 19% | 5.7 | 1.1  | 5.3 | 1.9 | 1035   | 27  | 20  |
|                                       | Sub-soiled | 48  | 46  | 96%  | 4%  | 6.0 | 1.4  | 5.5 | 1.9 | 1448   | 33  | 22  |
| 187                                   | Combined   | 96  | 81  | 84%  | 16% | 4.2 | 0.93 | 3.1 | 1.2 | 546.0  | 6.7 | 4.9 |
|                                       | Disked     | 48  | 42  | 88%  | 13% | 4.2 | 0.85 | 3.0 | 1.1 | 273.0  | 6.5 | 4.4 |
|                                       | Sub-soiled | 48  | 39  | 81%  | 19% | 4.2 | 1.0  | 3.2 | 1.3 | 273.0  | 7.0 | 5.3 |
| 188                                   | Combined   | 96  | 78  | 81%  | 19% | 4.6 | 1.3  | 3.8 | 1.9 | 921.3  | 12  | 11  |
|                                       | Disked     | 48  | 39  | 81%  | 19% | 4.2 | 1.0  | 3.2 | 1.2 | 278.6  | 7.1 | 5.2 |
|                                       | Sub-soiled | 48  | 39  | 81%  | 19% | 5.0 | 1.4  | 4.4 | 2.3 | 642.6  | 16  | 14  |
| 229                                   | Combined   | 96  | 93  | 97%  | 3%  | 5.2 | 0.86 | 4.7 | 1.5 | 1938   | 21  | 12  |
|                                       | Disked     | 48  | 48  | 100% | 0%  | 5.1 | 0.72 | 4.5 | 1.4 | 918.3  | 19  | 9.5 |
|                                       | Sub-soiled | 48  | 45  | 94%  | 6%  | 5.4 | 1.0  | 4.9 | 1.5 | 1019   | 23  | 14  |
| 339                                   | Combined   | 96  | 79  | 82%  | 18% | 4.8 | 1.1  | 4.1 | 1.7 | 943.9  | 12  | 11  |
|                                       | Disked     | 48  | 36  | 75%  | 25% | 4.3 | 1.0  | 3.5 | 1.4 | 319.4  | 8.9 | 7.1 |
|                                       | Sub-soiled | 48  | 43  | 90%  | 10% | 5.2 | 0.95 | 4.6 | 1.7 | 624.5  | 15  | 12  |
| Overall                               | Combined   | 960 | 809 | 84%  | 16% | 5.4 | 1.4  | 7.2 | 2.6 | 17,474 | 22  | 19  |
|                                       | Disked     | 480 | 385 | 80%  | 20% | 5.2 | 1.3  | 7.1 | 2.6 | 7359   | 19  | 16  |
|                                       | Sub-soiled | 480 | 424 | 88%  | 12% | 5.6 | 1.4  | 7.2 | 2.5 | 10,116 | 24  | 21  |

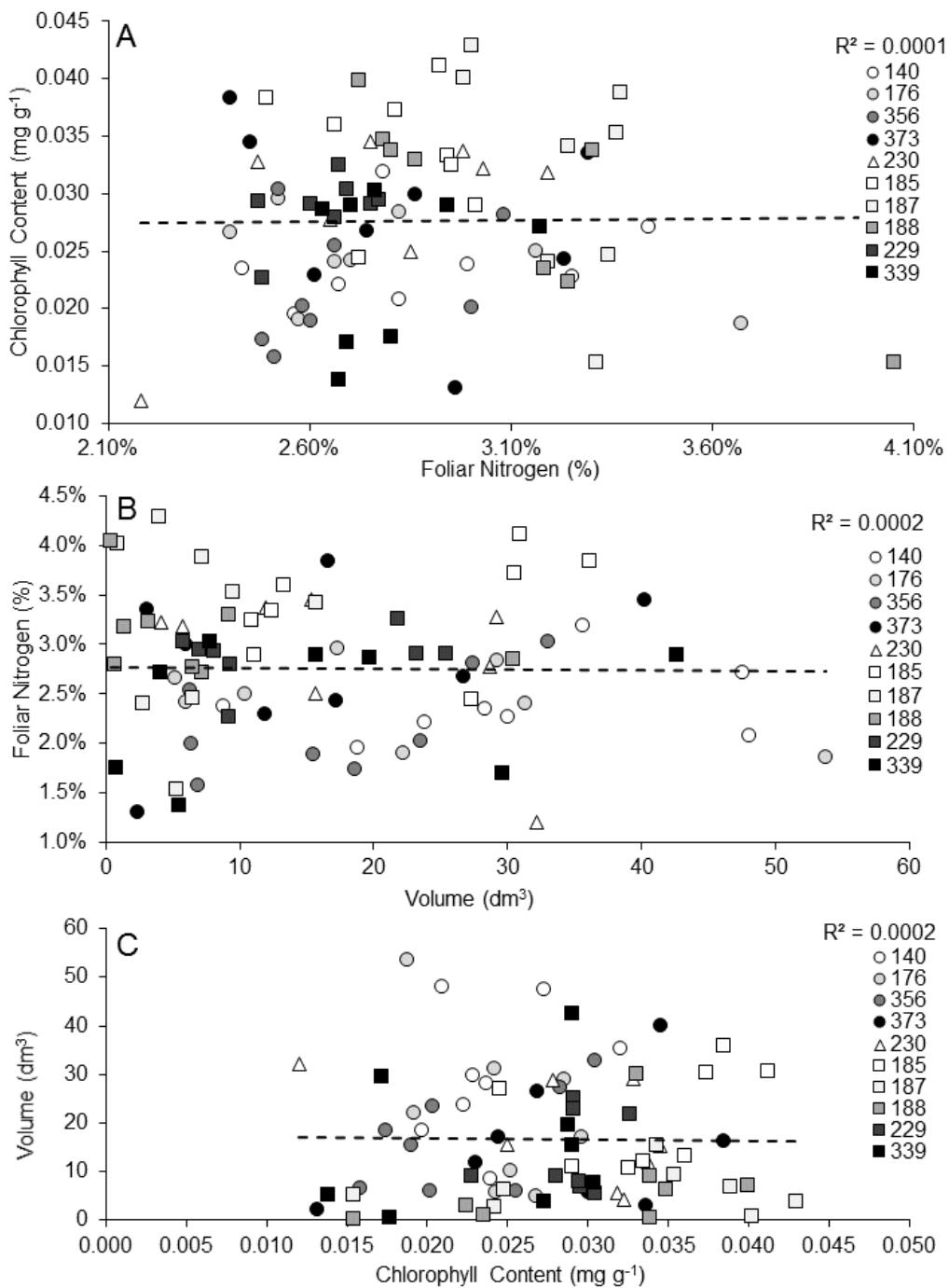
**Table S3.** Mean foliar nitrogen and one standard deviation (SD), phosphorous  $\pm$  SD, potassium  $\pm$  SD, magnesium  $\pm$  SD, calcium  $\pm$  SD, and sulfur  $\pm$  SD for trees. Means are listed by overall performance (combined), and then partitioned by soil tillage treatment.

| Genotype<br>Clone   | Treatment  | <i>n</i> | % Nitrogen |      | % Phosphorous |      | % Potassium |      | % Magnesium |      | % Calcium |      | % Sulfur |      |      |
|---------------------|--|----------|------------|------|---------------|------|-------------|------|-------------|------|-----------|------|----------|------|------|
|                     |  |          | Mean       | SD   | Mean          | SD   | Mean        | SD   | Mean        | SD   | Mean      | SD   | Mean     | SD   |      |
| <i>P. deltoides</i> | Combined   | 32       | 2.79       | 0.33 | 0.25          | 0.07 | 1.49        | 0.35 | 0.34        | 0.07 | 1.66      | 0.44 | 0.54     | 0.08 |      |
|                     | Disked   | 16       | 2.75       | 0.34 | 0.28          | 0.08 | 1.54        | 0.28 | 0.34        | 0.06 | 1.57      | 0.37 | 0.56     | 0.06 |      |
|                     | Sub-soiled   | 16       | 2.84       | 0.32 | 0.23          | 0.05 | 1.43        | 0.41 | 0.35        | 0.07 | 1.75      | 0.10 | 0.51     | 0.10 |      |
|                     | 140  | Combined | 8          | 2.87 | 0.34          | 0.25 | 0.07        | 1.43 | 0.28        | 0.33 | 0.08      | 1.79 | 0.40     | 0.53 | 0.03 |
|                     | Disked   | 4        | 2.62       | 0.17 | 0.25          | 0.08 | 1.26        | 0.18 | 0.37        | 0.07 | 1.98      | 0.37 | 0.54     | 0.03 |      |
|                     | Sub-soiled   | 4        | 3.12       | 0.29 | 0.24          | 0.06 | 1.60        | 0.28 | 0.29        | 0.08 | 1.60      | 0.28 | 0.52     | 0.03 |      |
| 176                 | Combined   | 8        | 2.81       | 0.42 | 0.24          | 0.05 | 1.29        | 0.27 | 0.37        | 0.07 | 1.89      | 0.36 | 0.56     | 0.06 |      |
|                     | Disked   | 4        | 3.05       | 0.47 | 0.27          | 0.06 | 1.52        | 0.09 | 0.30        | 0.02 | 1.58      | 0.17 | 0.58     | 0.08 |      |
|                     | Sub-soiled   | 4        | 2.58       | 0.18 | 0.21          | 0.01 | 1.05        | 0.09 | 0.43        | 0.03 | 2.19      | 0.15 | 0.53     | 0.03 |      |
|                     | 356  | Combined | 8          | 2.68 | 0.23          | 0.28 | 0.09        | 1.84 | 0.35        | 0.33 | 0.06      | 1.44 | 0.40     | 0.56 | 0.09 |
|                     | Disked   | 4        | 2.54       | 0.06 | 0.30          | 0.13 | 1.80        | 0.35 | 0.30        | 0.13 | 1.27      | 0.32 | 0.55     | 0.04 |      |
|                     | Sub-soiled   | 4        | 2.82       | 0.27 | 0.25          | 0.05 | 1.88        | 0.39 | 0.36        | 0.06 | 1.61      | 0.43 | 0.58     | 0.13 |      |
| 373                 | Combined   | 8        | 2.82       | 0.33 | 0.25          | 0.06 | 1.39        | 0.26 | 0.35        | 0.05 | 1.53      | 0.52 | 0.50     | 0.12 |      |
|                     | Disked   | 4        | 2.80       | 0.37 | 0.29          | 0.02 | 1.58        | 0.19 | 0.38        | 0.06 | 1.45      | 0.20 | 0.59     | 0.07 |      |
|                     | Sub-soiled   | 4        | 2.82       | 0.27 | 0.25          | 0.05 | 1.88        | 0.39 | 0.36        | 0.06 | 1.61      | 0.43 | 0.58     | 0.13 |      |
|                     | <i>P. trichocarpa</i> $\times$ <i>P. deltoides</i> | Combined | 40         | 2.92 | 0.32          | 0.25 | 0.06        | 1.53 | 0.24        | 0.26 | 0.07      | 1.03 | 0.23     | 0.33 | 0.06 |
|                     | Disked   | 20       | 2.88       | 0.38 | 0.27          | 0.07 | 1.55        | 0.30 | 0.25        | 0.04 | 0.97      | 0.24 | 0.32     | 0.04 |      |
|                     | Sub-soiled   | 20       | 2.95       | 0.25 | 0.24          | 0.05 | 1.52        | 0.17 | 0.27        | 0.97 | 1.09      | 0.22 | 0.34     | 0.07 |      |
| 185                 | Combined   | 8        | 2.81       | 0.18 | 0.28          | 0.06 | 1.35        | 0.23 | 0.25        | 0.03 | 1.27      | 0.16 | 0.29     | 0.02 |      |
|                     | Disked   | 4        | 2.71       | 0.19 | 0.29          | 0.07 | 1.38        | 0.30 | 0.26        | 0.02 | 1.28      | 0.24 | 0.29     | 0.02 |      |
|                     | Sub-soiled   | 4        | 2.92       | 0.18 | 0.28          | 0.06 | 1.32        | 0.16 | 0.25        | 0.04 | 1.26      | 0.06 | 0.29     | 0.03 |      |
|                     | 187  | Combined | 8          | 3.22 | 0.16          | 0.27 | 0.05        | 1.52 | 0.24        | 0.23 | 0.05      | 0.94 | 0.14     | 0.32 | 0.02 |
|                     | Disked   | 4        | 3.16       | 0.20 | 0.28          | 0.06 | 1.47        | 0.36 | 0.26        | 0.06 | 0.93      | 0.19 | 0.32     | 0.02 |      |
|                     | Sub-soiled   | 4        | 3.29       | 0.18 | 0.26          | 0.05 | 1.57        | 0.04 | 0.20        | 0.02 | 0.95      | 0.08 | 0.32     | 0.03 |      |
| 188                 | Combined   | 8        | 3.12       | 0.44 | 0.26          | 0.06 | 1.55        | 0.32 | 0.30        | 0.12 | 1.13      | 0.25 | 0.38     | 0.09 |      |
|                     | Disked   | 4        | 3.23       | 0.60 | 0.29          | 0.08 | 1.63        | 0.45 | 0.24        | 0.02 | 0.95      | 0.21 | 0.34     | 0.05 |      |
|                     | Sub-soiled   | 4        | 3.00       | 0.25 | 0.24          | 0.02 | 1.48        | 0.16 | 0.36        | 0.14 | 1.31      | 0.13 | 0.42     | 0.11 |      |
| 229                 | Combined   | 8        | 2.64       | 0.11 | 0.21          | 0.05 | 1.66        | 0.16 | 0.21        | 0.05 | 0.80      | 0.11 | 0.30     | 0.02 |      |

|                                       |  |            |    |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
|---------------------------------------|--|------------|----|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
|                                       |  | Disked     | 4  | 2.56 | 0.10 | 0.23 | 0.06 | 1.62 | 0.19 | 0.23 | 0.03 | 0.78 | 0.14 | 0.31 | 0.03 |
|                                       |  | Sub-soiled | 4  | 2.71 | 0.06 | 0.20 | 0.02 | 1.70 | 0.14 | 0.22 | 0.04 | 0.81 | 0.09 | 0.30 | 0.01 |
| 339                                   |  | Combined   | 8  | 2.80 | 0.18 | 0.23 | 0.04 | 1.59 | 0.14 | 0.31 | 0.07 | 1.03 | 0.18 | 0.36 | 0.04 |
|                                       |  | Disked     | 4  | 2.76 | 0.14 | 0.24 | 0.05 | 1.66 | 0.16 | 0.28 | 0.04 | 0.94 | 0.17 | 0.35 | 0.05 |
|                                       |  | Sub-soiled | 4  | 2.83 | 0.23 | 0.22 | 0.04 | 1.53 | 0.08 | 0.35 | 0.07 | 1.12 | 0.17 | 0.38 | 0.04 |
| <i>P. deltoides × P. maximowiczii</i> |  | Combined   | 8  | 2.76 | 0.33 | 0.22 | 0.03 | 1.57 | 0.12 | 0.30 | 0.05 | 1.08 | 0.27 | 0.37 | 0.02 |
|                                       |  | Disked     | 4  | 2.68 | 0.37 | 0.23 | 0.03 | 1.56 | 0.07 | 0.29 | 0.02 | 1.07 | 0.28 | 0.37 | 0.03 |
|                                       |  | Sub-soiled | 4  | 2.85 | 0.31 | 0.21 | 0.03 | 1.58 | 0.17 | 0.31 | 0.08 | 1.09 | 0.29 | 0.37 | 0.03 |
| 230                                   |  | Combined   | 8  | 2.76 | 0.33 | 0.22 | 0.03 | 1.57 | 0.12 | 0.30 | 0.05 | 1.08 | 0.27 | 0.37 | 0.02 |
|                                       |  | Disked     | 4  | 2.68 | 0.37 | 0.23 | 0.03 | 1.56 | 0.07 | 0.29 | 0.02 | 1.07 | 0.28 | 0.37 | 0.03 |
|                                       |  | Sub-soiled | 4  | 2.85 | 0.31 | 0.21 | 0.03 | 1.58 | 0.17 | 0.31 | 0.08 | 1.09 | 0.29 | 0.37 | 0.03 |
| Overall                               |  | Combined   | 80 | 2.85 | 0.33 | 0.25 | 0.06 | 1.52 | 0.28 | 0.29 | 0.08 | 1.29 | 0.45 | 0.42 | 0.12 |
|                                       |  | Disked     | 40 | 2.81 | 0.37 | 0.27 | 0.07 | 1.55 | 0.27 | 0.29 | 0.06 | 1.22 | 0.41 | 0.42 | 0.13 |
|                                       |  | Sub-soiled | 40 | 2.89 | 0.28 | 0.23 | 0.05 | 1.49 | 0.29 | 0.31 | 0.09 | 1.35 | 0.48 | 0.41 | 0.11 |

**Table S4.** Mean Leaf Area Index (LAI) and one standard deviation (SD) collected in October 2014.

| Genotype                              | Treatment  | n        | LAI  |      |
|---------------------------------------|------------|----------|------|------|
|                                       |            |          | Mean | SD   |
| <i>P. deltoides</i>                   | Combined   | 16       | 2.09 | 0.68 |
|                                       | Disked     | 8        | 1.82 | 0.69 |
|                                       | Sub-soiled | 8        | 2.33 | 0.60 |
|                                       | 140        | Combined | 2.30 | 0.34 |
|                                       | Disked     | 2        | 2.08 | 0.17 |
|                                       | Sub-soiled | 2        | 2.52 | 0.35 |
|                                       | 176        | Combined | 2.47 | 0.85 |
|                                       | Disked     | 2        | 2.25 | 1.30 |
|                                       | Sub-soiled | 2        | 2.69 | 0.51 |
|                                       | 356        | Combined | 2.03 | 0.48 |
|                                       | Disked     | 2        | 1.47 | 0.02 |
|                                       | Sub-soiled | 2        | 2.31 | 0.02 |
| <i>P. trichocarpa × P. deltoides</i>  | Combined   | 4        | 1.55 | 0.71 |
|                                       | Disked     | 2        | 1.39 | 0.03 |
|                                       | Sub-soiled | 2        | 1.81 | 1.12 |
|                                       | 185        | Combined | 1.36 | 0.48 |
|                                       | Disked     | 10       | 1.52 | 0.51 |
|                                       | Sub-soiled | 10       | 1.21 | 0.43 |
|                                       | 187        | Combined | 2.04 | 0.32 |
|                                       | Disked     | 2        | 1.81 | 0.27 |
|                                       | Sub-soiled | 2        | 2.27 | 0.15 |
|                                       | 188        | Combined | 1.02 | 0.35 |
|                                       | Disked     | 2        | 0.94 | 0.57 |
|                                       | Sub-soiled | 2        | 1.11 | 0.07 |
| <i>P. deltoides × P. maximowiczii</i> | Combined   | 4        | 1.12 | 0.21 |
|                                       | Disked     | 2        | 1.11 | 0.29 |
|                                       | Sub-soiled | 2        | 1.13 | 0.22 |
|                                       | 229        | Combined | 1.56 | 0.37 |
|                                       | Disked     | 2        | 1.28 | 0.17 |
|                                       | Sub-soiled | 2        | 1.84 | 0.28 |
|                                       | 339        | Combined | 1.09 | 0.26 |
|                                       | Disked     | 2        | 0.93 | 0.23 |
|                                       | Sub-soiled | 2        | 1.25 | 0.22 |
|                                       | Overall    | 39       | 1.65 | 0.65 |
|                                       | Disked     | 18       | 1.47 | 0.60 |
|                                       | Sub-soiled | 21       | 1.80 | 0.66 |



**Figure S1.** Cross-plots of (A) chlorophyll content ( $\text{mg g}^{-1}$ ) vs. foliar nitrogen (%); (B) foliar nitrogen (%), vs. volume index ( $\text{dm}^3$ ); and (C) volume index ( $\text{dm}^3$ ) vs. chlorophyll content ( $\text{mg g}^{-1}$ ) for *Populus* genotypes. Circles (O) represent *P. deltoides* genotypes, triangles ( $\Delta$ ) represent a *P. deltoides*  $\times$  *P. maximowiczii* genotype, and squares ( $\square$ ) represent *P. trichocarpa*  $\times$  *P. deltoides* genotypes. Trend lines are shown as dashed lines.  $R^2$  values are located in the top right of each cross plot.