Temporal variations in leaf traits, chemical composition and in vitro true digestibility of four temperate fodder tree species

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Table S1. Phenological stage (vegetative and, when present, reproductive; average values per species) at each sampling date for the four tree species following the extended BBCH scale. All surveys have been conducted in 2015. GDD, growing degree days, expressed as the mean values of the four tree species (± standard error).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>GDD</th>
<th>Acer pseudoplatanus</th>
<th>Fraxinus excelsior</th>
<th>Salix caprea</th>
<th>Sorbus aucuparia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15 Apr.</td>
<td>137.7 ± 2.76</td>
<td>Buds show green tips</td>
<td>Beginning of bud swelling; Flower buds visible</td>
<td>First leaves separated; Beginning of flowering</td>
<td>Buds show green tips</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 Apr.</td>
<td>205.0 ± 3.90</td>
<td>Buds show green tips</td>
<td>First leaves separated; 30% of flowers open</td>
<td>First leaves separated; Full flowering</td>
<td>First leaves separated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 Apr.</td>
<td>238.6 ± 3.94</td>
<td>Buds show green tips</td>
<td>First leaves separated; 40% of flowers open</td>
<td>Four true leaves unfolded; Flowering finishing</td>
<td>First leaves separated; Beginning of heading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 May</td>
<td>309.0 ± 4.23</td>
<td>Buds show green tips</td>
<td>Four true leaves unfolded; 60% of flowers open</td>
<td>Seven true leaves unfolded; Flowering finishing</td>
<td>Four true leaves unfolded; Beginning of heading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 May</td>
<td>391.4 ± 4.86</td>
<td>First leaves separated; Half of inflorescences emerged</td>
<td>Five true leaves unfolded; End of flowering; fruit sets visible</td>
<td>Eight true leaves unfolded; End of flowering, fruit sets visible</td>
<td>Four true leaves unfolded; Half of inflorescence emerged</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 May</td>
<td>482.0 ± 5.27</td>
<td>Three true leaf pairs unfolded; First flowers open</td>
<td>Five true leaves unfolded; Fruits have reached 10% of final size</td>
<td>Eight true leaves unfolded; Fruits have reached 10% of final size</td>
<td>Five true leaves unfolded; End of heading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 May</td>
<td>576.6 ± 5.82</td>
<td>Four true leaf pairs unfolded; 40% of flowers open</td>
<td>Five true leaves unfolded; Fruits have reached 30% of final size</td>
<td>Nine true leaves unfolded; Beginning of fruit coloration</td>
<td>Five true leaves unfolded; Full flowering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>GDD</td>
<td>Acer pseudoplatanus</td>
<td>Fraxinus excelsior</td>
<td>Salix caprea</td>
<td>Sorbus aucuparia</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Jun.</td>
<td>661.3 ± 5.98</td>
<td>Four true leaf pairs unfolded; End of flowering; fruit sets visible</td>
<td>Five true leaves unfolded; Fruits have reached 40% of final size</td>
<td>Nine true leaves unfolded; Fruits begin to soften</td>
<td>Five true leaves unfolded; Fruits have reached 10% of final size</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 Jun.</td>
<td>869.5 ± 6.16</td>
<td>Five true leaf pairs unfolded; Fruits have reached 10% of final size</td>
<td>Shoot development completed; Fruits have reached 60% of final size</td>
<td>Shoot development completed; Fully ripe</td>
<td>Shoot development completed; Fruits have reached 50% of final size</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Jul.</td>
<td>1086.0 ± 5.99</td>
<td>Shoot development completed; Fruits have reached 30% of final size</td>
<td>Shoot development completed; Fruits have reached 70% of final size</td>
<td>Shoot development completed; Fully ripe</td>
<td>Shoot development completed; Nearly all fruits have reached the final size</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 Jul.</td>
<td>1623.5 ± 6.16</td>
<td>Shoot development completed; Fruits have reached 60% of final size</td>
<td>Shoot development completed; Fruits have reached 70% of final size</td>
<td>Shoot development completed</td>
<td>Beginning of leaf fall; Beginning of fruit coloration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 Aug.</td>
<td>2054.3 ± 6.61</td>
<td>Shoot development completed; Nearly all fruits have reached the final size</td>
<td>Shoot development completed; Nearly all fruits have reached the final size</td>
<td>Shoot development completed</td>
<td>Beginning of leaf fall; Fully ripe</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>