



„zero growth line” approach assumes that growth occurs only when the stem radius exceeds the previous max radius value.

The difference between the zero growth line and the current stem values is regarded as the relative measure of drought-related tree water deficit (TWD)

- ✓ warm spring in 2018 caused a positive GPP and ET anomaly that outweighed the negative effect of later summer drought. As a consequence, in contrast to our hypothesis, **2018 had the highest GPP and ET seasonal total** among all the investigated years.
- ✓ **visible differences between the species** in response to the dry conditions were found. Ring-porous species seemed to be more drought resistant due to their efficient conductive system, but also with earlier growth onset they could profit from warmer and wetter spring conditions. From the three species investigated, and despite clear decrease in radial increment in August 2017 and 2018 due to decrease in rSWC, **Fraxinus angustifolia L. was the most productive species.**
- ✓ **Increase in TWD** showed the same pattern in all tree species and always was **associated with decrease in SWC.**
- ✓ Relative SWC threshold **~0.45** was determined by several independent methods to indicate the onset of drought stress.