

Supplementary materials

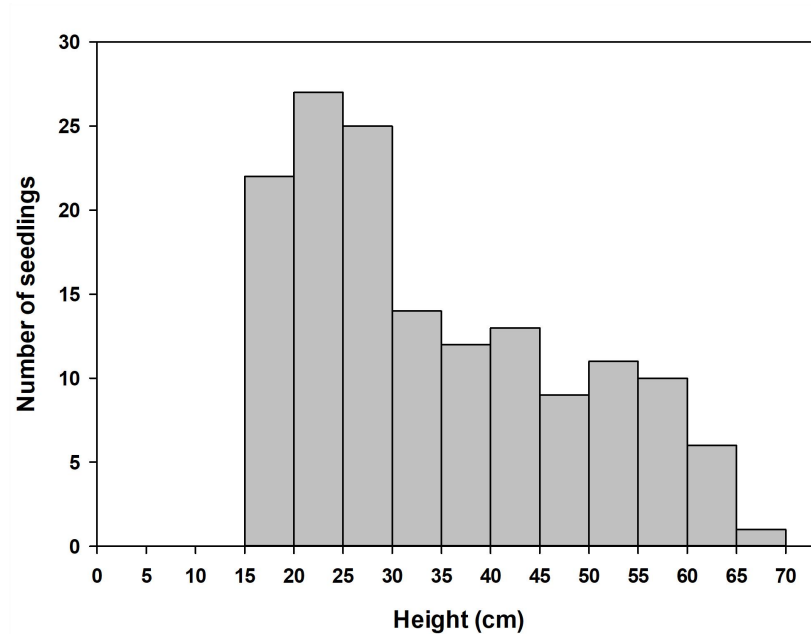


Fig. S1 Frequency of *Quercus variabilis* seedlings with different shoot heights at the end of the growing period (T₁). The average height across all seedlings was 34.3 ± 13.8 cm.

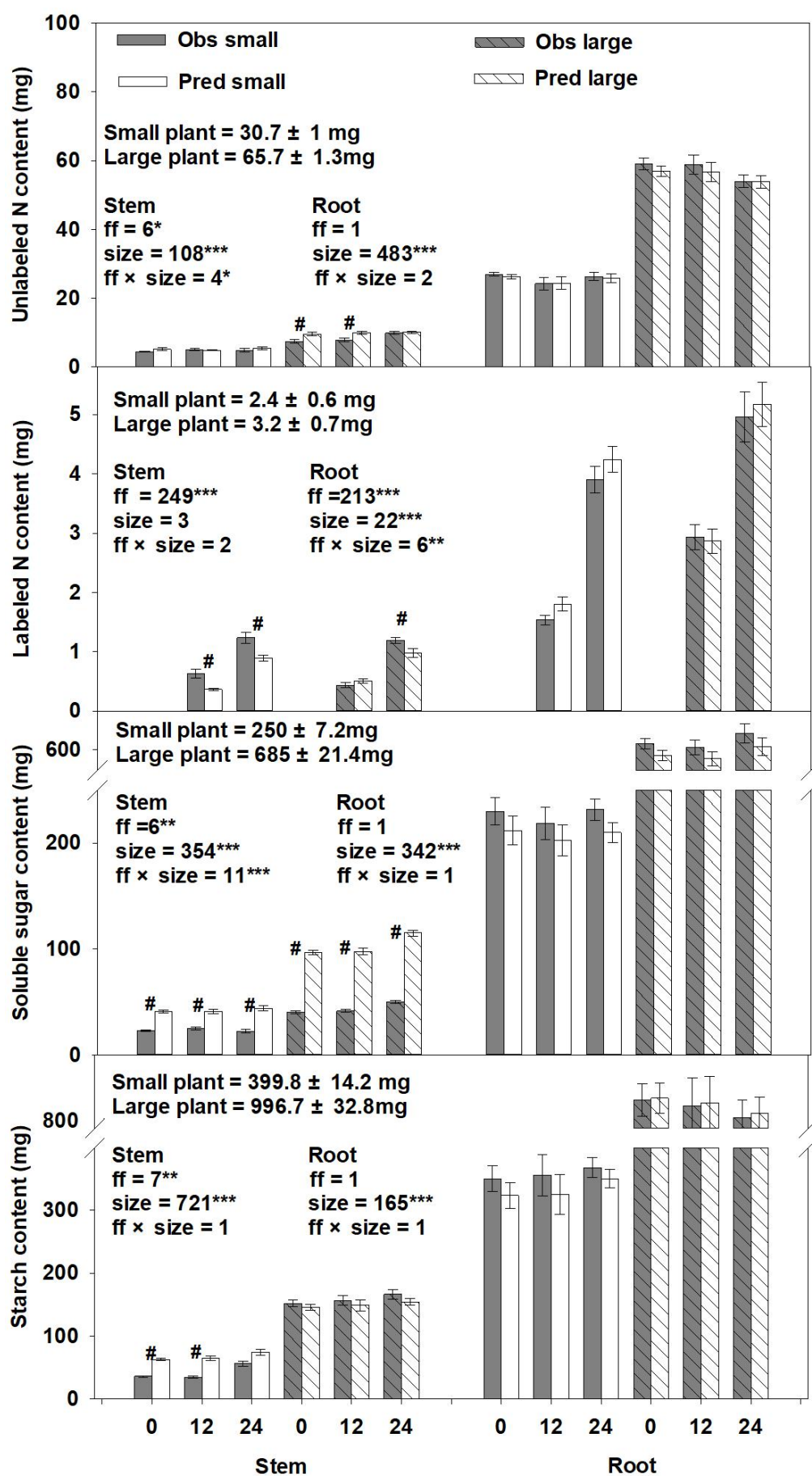


Fig. S2 Observed and predicted values of nitrogen (labeled and unlabeled N), soluble sugar, and starch content in different organs in *Quercus variabilis* seedlings at the end of the hardening period (T₂). In each panel, total content of N, soluble sugar, and starch (mean $\pm$ SE) are shown for small and large seedlings. For organ-level comparisons, # indicates significant differences between the observed and predicted results. F values and significance of two-way ANOVAs on effects of fall fertilization (ff), seedling size (size) and their interaction (ff $\times$ size) on N, soluble sugar, and starch content were shown. *, $0.01 < P \leq 0.05$; **, $0.001 < P \leq 0.01$; ***, $P \leq 0.001$. (n=5)