Supplementary Material

Table S1. Results of a two-way ANOVA for growth parameters, biomass allocation, proline leaf concentration and leaf anatomical traits for *Fagus sylvatica*, *Quercus petraea*, *Abies alba* and *Pinus sylvestris* seedlings grown at different irrigation treatments (100%, 75%, 50% and 25% of the recommended dose) in a container nursery. Species and irrigation treatment were fixed effects and block was a random effect.

Parameter	Effect	Df	F	*P*
Height of seedling	Species	3	1280.00	< 0.001
	Treatment	3	113.50	< 0.001
	S xT	9	13.60	< 0.001
	Error	618		
Diameter at root collar	Species	3	857.85	< 0.001
	Treatment	3	71.93	< 0.001
	S xT	9	15.11	< 0.001
	Error	615		
Leaf water content	Species	3	622.58	< 0.001
	Treatment	3	1.74	0.160
	S xT	9	2.88	0.003
	Error	240		
Shoot water content	Species	3	11.75	< 0.001
	Treatment	3	2.35	0.073
	S xT	9	0.84	0.576
	Error	240		
Root water content	Species	3	91.81	< 0.001
	Treatment	3	1.43	0.234
	S xT	9	1.74	0.080
	Error	240		
Total seedling dry mass	Species	3	210.79	< 0.001
	Treatment	3	61.26	< 0.001
	S xT	9	17.80	< 0.001
	Error	240		
Aboveground to belowground mass ratio (ABMR)	Species	3	81.32	< 0.001
	Treatment	3	5.67	0.001
	S xT	9	5.92	< 0.001
	Error	237		
Leaf mass fraction (LMF)	Species	3	228.45	< 0.001
	Treatment	3	1.15	0.329
	S xT	9	4.15	< 0.001
	Error	237		
Root mass fraction (RMF)	Species	3	207.28	< 0.001
	Treatment	3	1.93	0.125
	S x T	9	2.31	0.017
	Error	237		

The block effect was removed from the models since it was not significant. DF – degrees of freedom, F – value of Snedecor's function, *P* – probability.

Table S2. Continuation.

Parameter	Effect	Df	F	*P*
Stem mass fraction (SMF)	Species	3	256.06	< 0.001
	Treatment	3	3.63	0.014
	S x T	9	4.12	< 0.001
	Error	237		
Leaf proline concentration	Species	3	23.63	< 0.001
	Treatment	3	9.97	< 0.001
	S x T	9	8.67	< 0.001
	Error	48		
Leaf thickness	Species	3	797.79	< 0.001
	Treatment	2	1.12	0.331
	S x T	6	1.43	0.22
	Error	76		
Palisade cell length	Species	2	92.87	< 0.001
	Treatment	2	5.58	0.008
	S x T	4	0.97	0.429
	Error	64		
Phloem area	Species	3	778.47	< 0.001
	Treatment	2	5.33	0.007
	S x T	6	2.00	0.076
	Error	74		
Xylem area	Species	3	637.20	< 0.001
	Treatment	2	4.21	0.019
	S x T	6	2.28	0.045
	Error	75		
Conduit diameter (mean)	Species	3	462.01	< 0.001
	Treatment	2	4.17	0.019
	S x T	6	1.05	0.400
	Error	74		
Conduit diameter (max)	Species	3	545.81	< 0.001
	Treatment	2	4.77	0.011
	S x T	6	0.84	0.545
	Error	74		

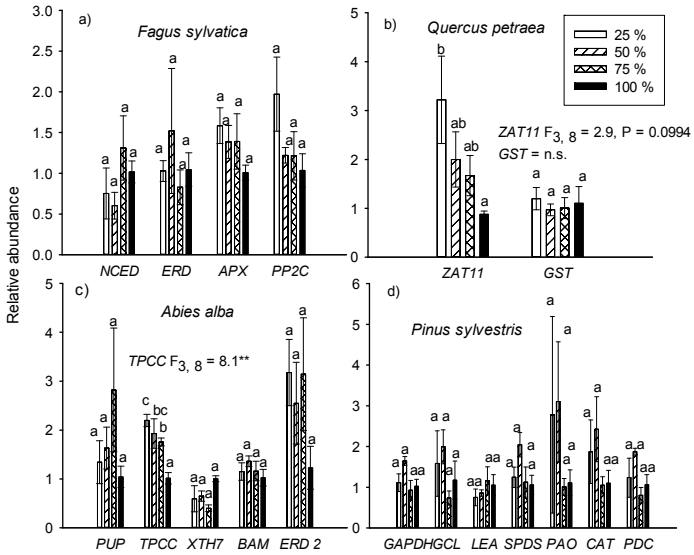

Figure S1. Relative transcript abundance of selected response-to-abiotic-stress genes in leaves of *Fagus sylvatica*, *Quercus petraea*, and needles of *Abies alba* and *Pinus sylvestris* seedlings grown under different levels of irrigation (100%, 75%, 50% and 25% of the recommended level) (means±SE, n = 12, n- number of seedlings per species and irrigation treatment). One-way analysis of variance F-values for treatment effect with degrees of freedom and the associated *P* values are shown separately for each species (****P*<0.001, ** *P*<0.01, * *P*<0.05, n.s. – not significant). Shared letters above bars indicate that differences between means were not significant. .