Tree Water Storage as a Diagnostic Metric of Forest Response to Drought

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U. of Michigan Biological Station (UMBS) Ameriflux site





- Control LAI $\approx 3.89 \text{ m}^{2}\text{m}^{-2}$
- Disturbance LAI $\approx 3.68 \text{ m}^2\text{m}^{-2}$



Transpiration and latent heat at the plot level



Sap flux \approx 78% of LE





Behavioral changes at the species level

Sap flow density



Matheny et al. 2014, JGR Biogeosciences

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- Oak: 53% ↑
- Maple: 5% ↑
- Pine: 6% ↑

Stomatal conductance

- Oak: 63% ↑
- Maple: 37% ↓

• Pine: 132% ↑



Rooting depth differences enable sustained water uptake

• D-excess:



Matheny et al. 2016, Ecohydrology

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Species-specific dynamics during dry conditions



Matheny et al. 2016, Ecohydrology

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Water storage dynamics with declining soil water



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Water storage dynamics with declining soil water



➤ Matheny et al. 2015, Ecosphere

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Finite-difference Ecosystem-scale Tree-

crown Hydrodynamics (FETCH2)



Model parameters define hydraulic strategy



➢ Matheny et al. 2016, Ecohydrology



Preliminary FETCH2 simulations





Things the AMS asked for

Observations (or networks) that are needed: Ameriflux (flux network), TRY (plant trait network), Soil moisture observations

Recommended instruments that are needed: Sapflow sensors, flux towers, spaceborne microwave radiometers, spaceborne hyperspectral images

Greatest observational needs for your discipline:

High resolution global soil moisture reanalysis

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