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Journal of Hydrology

Volume 162, Issues 3&4, November 1994, Pages 409-427

Research paper

Estimation of plant transpiration from meteorological data under conditions of sufficient soil moisture

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[https://doi.org/10.1016/0022-1694\(94\)90239-9](https://doi.org/10.1016/0022-1694(94)90239-9)

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Abstract

The transpiration of forest growth during the growing season when sufficient soil moisture is available is estimated on the basis of the requirement of water for cooling trees. Tree growth is regarded as a cooler with water as a coolant (evaporative latent heat). Trees are simultaneously warmed up by incident solar radiation and cooled down by the ambient air and by the evaporation of water from the leaf. These parallel, mutually competing processes are described in their simplest form and provide the algorithm for the calculation of the cooling-water requirement. The calculation uses hourly values of air temperature and of global-radiation totals. Properties of the forest growth are expressed in terms of two phenomenological constants – effective absorptivity and effective thickness of leaves. Both are obtained by calibration. The applicability of the

proposed calculation was subjected to experimental verification during the course of the growing seasons for 1985–1989 in the mountain watershed LIZ, situated in the National Park Šumava in the southern part of the Czech Republic. The error in determining evapotranspiration/transpiration is about 5% of the precipitation over the growing season.



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