

Contents

Chapter 1 Contexts, Perspectives, and Principles

Plant interactions with the atmosphere, hydrosphere, and geosphere underpin terrestrial ecosystems	1
Minimizing human impact on ecosystems and achieving global food security are significant challenges	3
Proximate and ultimate questions elucidate how and why plants interact with the environment	5
Resources, stressors, and toxins affect plant biomass production and quality	6
Environmental factors that affect plant growth are interacting but independent variables	10
Many reference soil groups are a product of interacting environmental variables	10
Spatial and temporal analyses provide insights into plant responses to environmental variation	11
Plants process information about environmental variation using signaling networks	14
Differences in gene expression and in the genes expressed underpin a hierarchy of plant adaptations	14
Environmental plant physiology is ecologically useful in defining plant traits and niches	19
Studying plant-environment interactions can help to increase agricultural efficiency and sustainability	20
Modeling is improving our understanding of plant-environment interactions	21
Summary	21
Further reading	22

Chapter 2 Light

In plants, ancient photosynthetic systems provide the chemical energy for terrestrial ecosystems	23
Photosystems, cytochromes, and ATP synthases transduce light energy into chemical energy	25
Terrestrial plants have to adapt to a generally high and very variable light regime	28
Plants can adjust quickly to variation in PAR using non-photochemical quenching	31
Plants can adjust electron flows to help them to withstand variable light intensities	34
PSII repair is important in plants that tolerate high light intensities	36
Chloroplast movements can be used to adjust fairly rapidly the amount of light absorbed	37
Photosystems, grana, and thylakoids adapt to differences in light regime	39

Leaf optical properties are adapted to long-term variation in light regimes	41
Adjustments in leaf position and plant architecture adapt plants to different light regimes	44
Photoinhibition is most severe in alpine environments	46
Summary	48
Further reading	49

Chapter 3 Carbon Dioxide

CO ₂ fixation underpins the primary production of biomass	51
Variation in the supply of CO ₂ to plants is significant and affected by human activity	53
The regulation of rubisco activity controls CO ₂ entry into the Calvin-Benson cycle	56
Oxygenation of RuBP decreases growth but provides rapid metabolic flexibility	58
When there is a sustained low CO ₂ supply, C ₄ plants maintain a high CO ₂ :O ₂ ratio in the vicinity of rubisco	60
C ₃ -C ₄ intermediates and C ₄ plants show distinct responses to chronic differences in the environment	63
Crassulacean acid metabolism adapts plants to chronically difficult CO ₂ -fixation conditions	66
Long-term increased CO ₂ levels can increase plant growth, but limiting factors can moderate this effect	69
Plant responses to increasing CO ₂ levels will affect the hydrological cycle and Earth's climate	72
An understanding of CO ₂ fixation by plants is important for sustainable food production and ecosystem conservation	73
Summary	75
Further reading	75

Chapter 4 Water

Plant-water relations affect physiological processes from a cellular to a global scale	77
Water management is vital for ensuring global food security and minimizing the impact of human activity on the environment	80
Water potential gradients drive water movement, including transpiration in trees over 100 m tall	83
Short-term adjustments of resistance to water flux allow water homeostasis	85

Many plants adapt physiologically to short-term water deficit	88	Mycorrhizas are major adaptations for phosphorus acquisition in low-phosphorus environments	142
Extended water deficit induces changes in root growth	90	Some species use cluster root systems to intensively mine phosphorus from the soil	146
Leaf adaptations aid drought survival and provide alternative ways of capturing water	92	Carnivorous plants digest organic phosphorus using phosphatases	150
Succulent xerophytes are physiologically decoupled from their chronically arid environments	94	Summary	150
Resurrection plants cope with complete desiccation	95	Further reading	151
Interactions between water and other stressors provide important environmental insights	99		
Summary	100	Chapter 7 Essential and Beneficial Elements	153
Further reading	101	Terrestrial plants evolved to mine the soil for an ancient suite of available elements	153
Chapter 5 Nitrogen	103	The availability of essential nutrients limits biomass production and quality in many ecosystems	156
Nitrogen assimilated in plants is vital for the production of biomolecules in terrestrial organisms	103	Elemental homeostasis is achieved using both ion-binding compounds and transport proteins	157
Artificially fixed nitrogen significantly affects the biosphere and atmosphere	104	Plants adjust to a variable supply of micronutrients by overexpressing homeostatic components	159
The concentration of different forms of soil nitrogen varies significantly	107	Beneficial elements help many plant species to cope with a wide range of abiotic stresses	160
Plant nitrogen-transporter uptake capacity is tuned to variation in soil nitrogen supply	111	Sub-optimal sulfur availability can inhibit the synthesis of ecophysiologicaly important compounds	162
Plants integrate nitrogen from different sources by converting it to NH_3 for assimilation	113	Potassium can limit ecosystem production, but its use in fertilizer has a moderate environmental impact	164
Whole-plant physiological adjustments help to use different patterns of nitrogen supply	115	Calcium deficiency can occur in a variety of plants, and magnesium deficiency in a variety of crops	166
Plants adjust their root morphology in response to shortages of nitrogen	116	Adaptations of root anatomy and morphology help plants to respond to chronic nutrient deficiency	168
Symbioses contribute significantly to plant nitrogen uptake in nitrogen-deficient environments	117	Many plants use symbioses with fungi and changes in rhizosphere microflora to aid nutrient uptake	170
Carnivorous plants are mixotrophs that can obtain nitrogen opportunistically from an erratic supply	123	Ionomics	171
Summary	126	Summary	173
Further reading	127	Further reading	174
Chapter 6 Phosphorus	129		
Phosphorus availability often controls terrestrial biomass production and ecosystem processes	129	Chapter 8 Temperature	175
Current phosphorus fertilizer regimes are unsustainable, inefficient, and often polluting	131	Plants are static poikilotherms, so significant variation in temperature is a considerable challenge	175
Phosphorus homeostasis is a key challenge for plants in terrestrial ecosystems	133	Changing global temperature regimes are affecting plant growth, development, and distribution	177
Plants have numerous transporters that regulate uptake and translocation	135	Plants detect temperature changes via physical changes in numerous biomolecules	180
Plants can increase the availability of inorganic phosphorus and the breakdown of organic phosphorus	136	Chilling, freezing, and heat initiate changes in key components of different signaling pathways	183
Plants can adjust their root system morphology to optimize phosphorus uptake	140		

In some plants, chilling temperatures can induce an acclimation response based on the CBF regulon	184	Plant cells have multiple mechanisms for buffering cytosolic pH	233
Adaptation to non-optimal temperature necessitates maintaining membranes in the liquid-crystal state	186	Acid soils contain high solution concentrations of ions that are toxic to plant cells	234
Freezing-tolerant plants produce cryoprotectants and osmoprotectants	188	Some plants resist the effects of moderate soil acidity by excluding aluminum from the cytoplasm	237
Heat-tolerant plants have protein curation mechanisms adapted to increase the rate of protein repair	191	For many plants on acid soils, mycorrhizal associations increase aluminum resistance	240
Anatomical and morphological adaptations of leaves aid plant tolerance of prolonged cold and heat	194	On very acidic soils, some plants take up and compartmentalize aluminum	241
Temperature-induced physiological changes trigger developmental and phenological responses	198	Basic soils are low in important nutrients and induce characteristic symptoms in plants	243
Summary	199	Some plants have adapted to scavenge iron, zinc, and manganese from basic soils	246
Further reading	199	Nicotianamine aids iron homeostasis, and in grasses evolved into root exudates that chelate iron	247
Chapter 9 Salinity	201	Ecologically important iron and zinc deficiency responses are finding important agricultural uses	249
Terrestrial plants are descended from freshwater algae, so saline water is generally toxic to them	201	Summary	250
Plant responses to salinity are important in irrigated agriculture and in salt marshes and mangrove swamps	204	Further reading	251
Exposure to salt induces osmotic and ionic stresses in plants	208	Chapter 11 Flooding	253
Sodium can enter plants via symplastic and apoplastic pathways, but can be removed from the cytoplasm	211	Flooding is a significant variable in both unmanaged and managed terrestrial ecosystems	253
Salt-tolerant plants compartmentalize sodium, and halophytes also control potassium:sodium ratios	213	Human activity is adversely affecting wetlands and increasing the incidence of flooding	255
At high salinity, halophytes synthesize specialized metabolites in order to adapt to osmotic challenges	215	Waterlogged soils are low in oxygen and some nutrients, but high in toxins	255
Salt tolerance in crops has been increased by manipulating biochemical and physiological traits	217	Soil waterlogging rapidly induces hypoxia, cellular acidosis, and decreased water uptake	258
Halophytes that face severe osmotic stresses have morphological and physiological adaptations	219	Physiological adjustments enable some plants to withstand soil waterlogging for short periods	259
Some halophytes use specialized organs to excrete sodium chloride from their leaves	221	Ethylene signaling is central to plant responses to excess water	261
Mangrove and salt-marsh plants tolerate waterlogging and salinity	223	In many plants, waterlogging-induced hypoxia induces changes in root anatomy	262
Summary	224	Wetland plants form extensive constitutive aerenchyma and adapt morphologically to flooding	266
Further reading	225	In some flooded soils, pneumatophores help woody plants to aerate their roots	268
Chapter 10 Soil pH	227	The adaptations of wetland plants often produce oxidized rhizospheres	269
Soil pH affects the growth of both wild and domesticated plants	227	Some plants can adapt to submergence of their shoots	271
Soil pH is operationally defined and human activities are affecting it on a global scale	229	Emergent aquatic macrophytes can force oxygen down through organs buried deep in anoxic mud	273
		Some aquatic macrophytes are adapted to living permanently submerged	275
		Summary	275
		Further reading	276

Chapter 12 Inorganic Toxins	279	Summary	329
A few reactive elements are essential, but they and many non-essential elements can also be toxic	279	Further reading	329
Human activity is significantly increasing the concentrations of inorganic toxins in the Earth's ecosystems	281	Chapter 14 Air Pollutants	331
Homeostatic mechanisms control the uptake and translocation of reactive elements in plants	284	Plants are dependent on an extensive surface area that interacts with the atmosphere	331
Exposure to inorganic toxins decreases growth and reproduction via physiological and genetic effects	288	Adverse effects of air pollution on plants will be important in the twenty-first century	334
Amplified homeostatic mechanisms in the roots of some species produce a metal-tolerant physiology	292	The deposition of air pollutants on plants depends on the properties of plants and pollutants	336
Some plants have the capacity to minimize the uptake of toxins from high external concentrations	295	Plants can assimilate some sulfur dioxide, but anthropogenic deposition rates can exceed this capacity	337
Some plants can hyperaccumulate inorganic toxins in their shoots	296	Direct uptake of gaseous reactive nitrogen species can affect plant growth and ecosystem dynamics	339
Chronic exposure to toxins in metalliferous ecosystems provides some unique biological insights	300	Semi-volatile and volatile organic compounds can be absorbed by and released from vegetation	342
Control of soil-to-plant transfer of inorganic toxins is useful in agriculture and phytoremediation	301	Chronic effects of ozone on terrestrial plants will be significant in the twenty-first century	345
Summary	303	Particulates filtered by plants from the atmosphere can affect their growth	348
Further reading	303	Plants can be used to monitor and manage air quality	350
Chapter 13 Organic Toxins	305	Summary	351
Plants can control the reactivity of many organic functional groups	305	Further reading	352
Synthetic organic compounds underpin modern life but can have a significant environmental impact	308	Chapter 15 Synopsis and Outlook	355
The entry of organic toxins into plants depends on soil, plant, and chemical properties	309	Plant-environment interactions play a significant role in determining the boundaries of non-linear effects in Earth systems	355
Organic toxins elicit reactive and perhaps also proactive stress responses in plants	313	The understanding of plant stress response mechanisms can be extended by comparisons with other organisms	356
In plant cells, many organic toxins can be transformed enzymatically	315	Our understanding of the importance of variation in plant-environment interactions can be extended by modeling that includes the pattern and scale of variation	358
In some plants, organic toxins and their transformation products can be deactivated by conjugation	317	Understanding how plant stress responses evolved will provide insights about the plant-environment interface	359
In some plants, conjugated organic toxins can be allocated to metabolically inactive compartments	319	Understanding plant-environment interactions helps us to confront global challenges	361
Non-target-site herbicide resistance can evolve from xenobiotic detoxification mechanisms	320	Further reading	362
Target-site resistance helps plants to adapt to catastrophic exposure to herbicides	323	Abbreviations list	363
Plants enhance the bioremediation of water and soils contaminated with organic xenobiotics	324	Glossary	365
Manipulation of plant tolerance of organic toxins is of increasing importance	327	Index	378