

The impact of water availability on the structure and physiology of leaves and twigs - results from 18 years of conifer forest irrigation

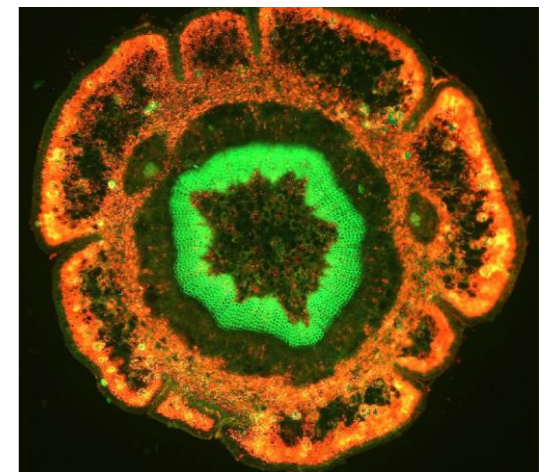


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Water availability has profound short- and long-term impacts on the function of trees. Access to water during leaf and twig development induces structural acclimations that influence the ability of trees to handle water stress later in the season and may echo in tree performance across many years. Using the long-term irrigation experiment at Pfywald Forest in Switzerland, with comparisons to the tall conifers of Humboldt County, Dr. Alana Chin's research explores how water availability drives tree structure and the ability of leaves and twigs to directly absorb rainfall. Of particular interest are the legacy effects of previous water access, many years after irrigation was halted.



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