

A comparison of simulated and field-derived leaf area index (LAI) and canopy height values from four forest complexes in the southeastern USA

John S. Iiames ^{1,*}, Ellen Cooter ², Donna Schwede ² and Jimmy Williams ³

¹ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, National Exposure Research Laboratory, Exposure Methods and Measurements Division, 109 T.W. Alexander Drive, Research Triangle Park, N.C. 27711;

liames.john@epa.gov

² U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, National Exposure Research Laboratory, Atmospheric Modeling and Analysis Division, 109 T.W. Alexander Drive, Research Triangle Park, N.C. 27711;

Cooter.ellen@epa.gov; Schwede.donna@epa.gov

³ Texas A & M University, Agri-Life Research, Temple, Texas; jwilliams@brc.tamus.edu

* Correspondence: liames.john@epa.gov; Tel.: +1-919-541-3039

1. Field site forest visualization and composition and EPIC model input

1.1 Appomattox

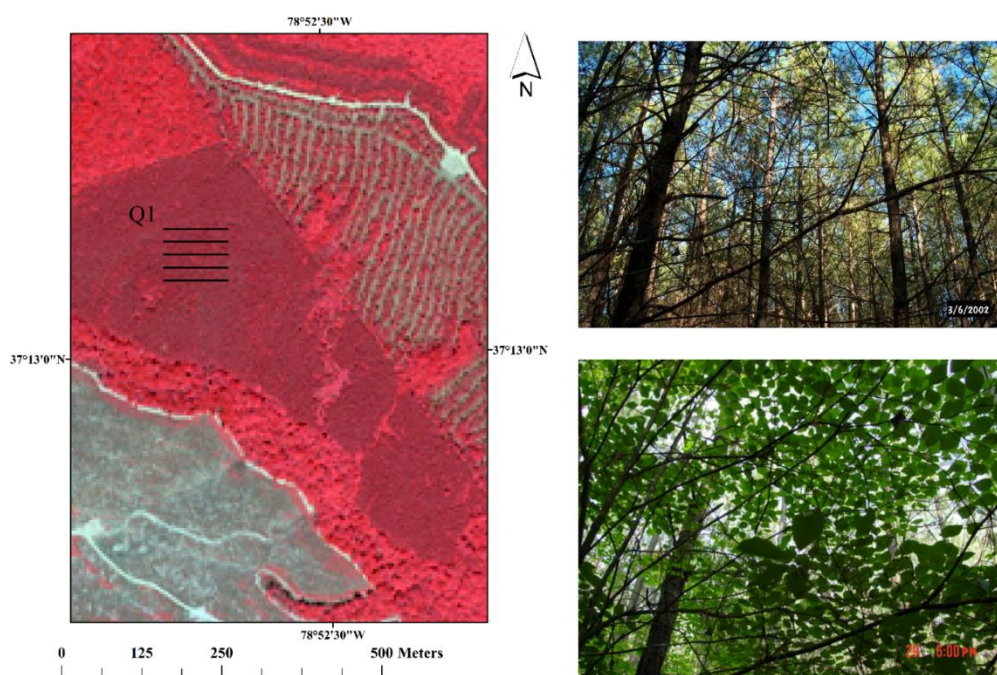


Figure S1. Appomattox, VA site location. Image on left is a color infrared Ikonos image with plot location (Q1) depicted within the loblolly pine stand (dark red tone). Leaf-off and leaf-on images are shown on the right.

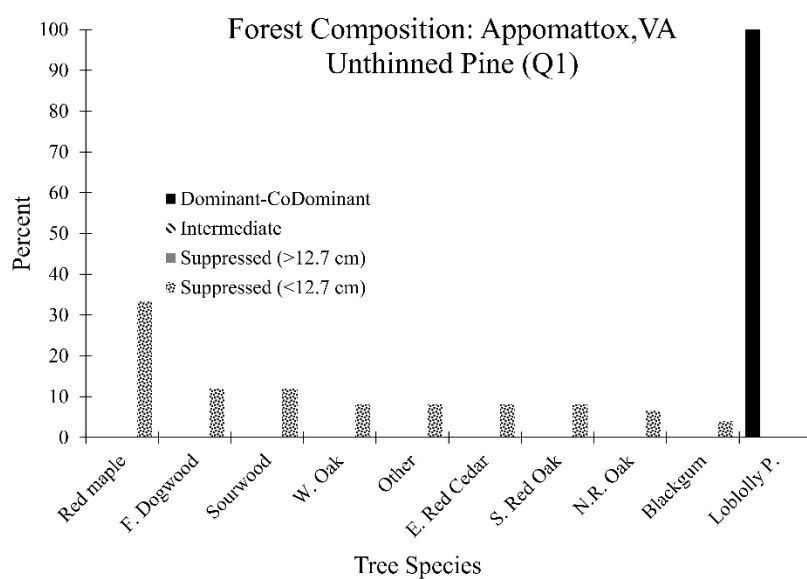


Figure S2. Deciduous forest composition for the Appomattox LAI validation site, dominant-codominant, intermediate, and suppressed canopy.

1.2 Hertford

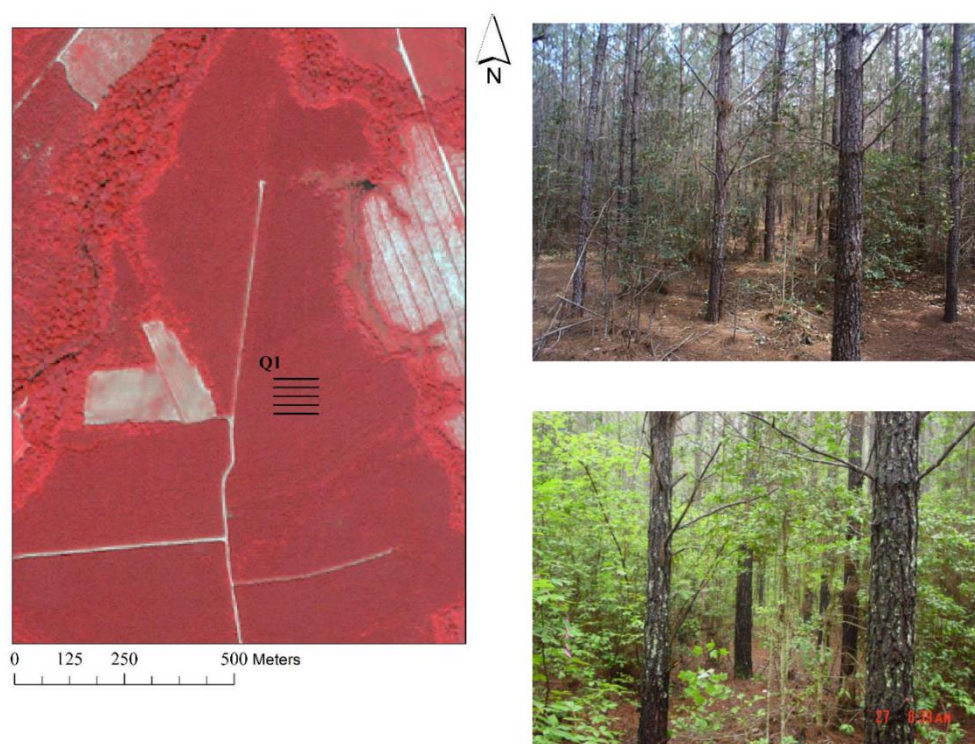


Figure S3 Hertford, NC site location. Image on left is a color infrared Ikonos image with plot location (Q1) depicted within the loblolly pine stand (dark red tone). Leaf-off and leaf-on images are shown on the right.

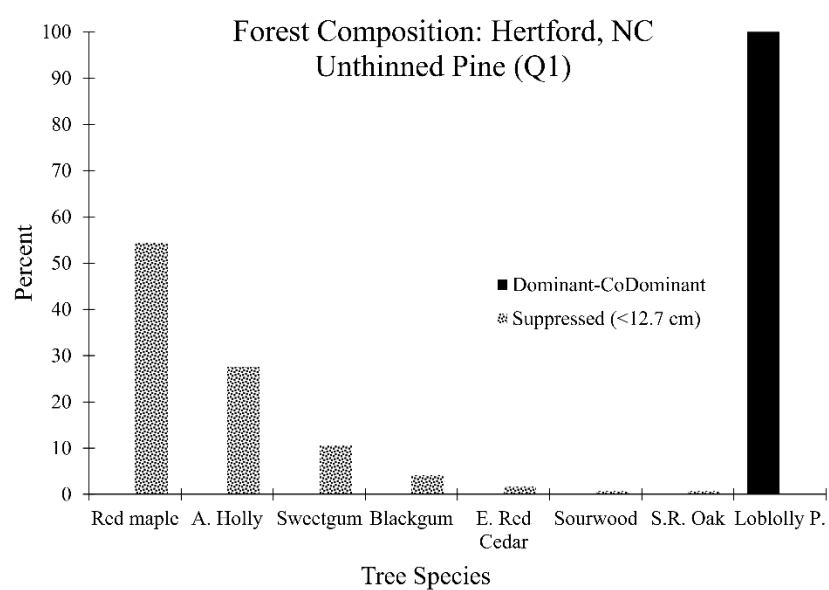


Figure S4. Deciduous forest composition for the Hertford LAI validation site, dominant-codominant, intermediate, and suppressed canopy.

1.3 Fairystone

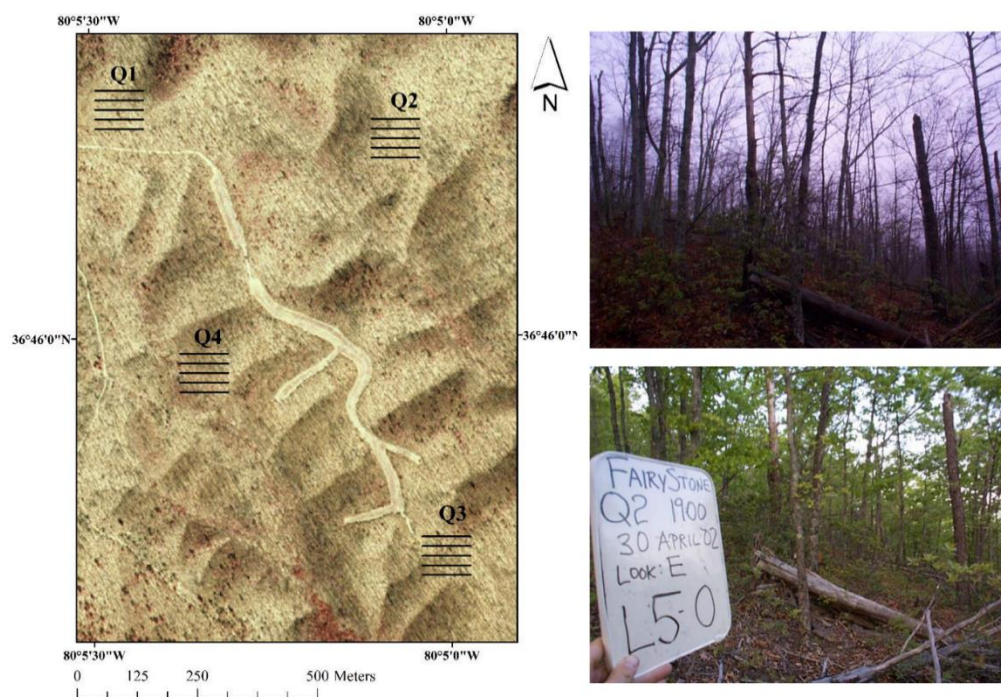


Figure S5. Fairystone, VA site location. Image on left is a natural color digital ortho-quarter quadrangle image with plot locations (Q1-Q4) depicted within the oak-hickory hardwood stand. Leaf-off and leaf-on images are shown on the right.

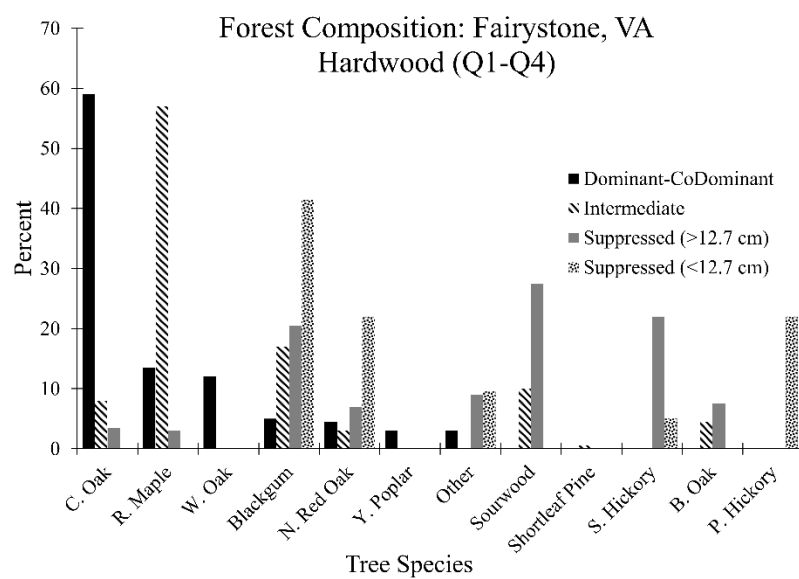


Figure S6. Deciduous forest composition for the Fairystone LAI validation site, dominant-codominant, intermediate, and suppressed canopy.

1.4 Umstead

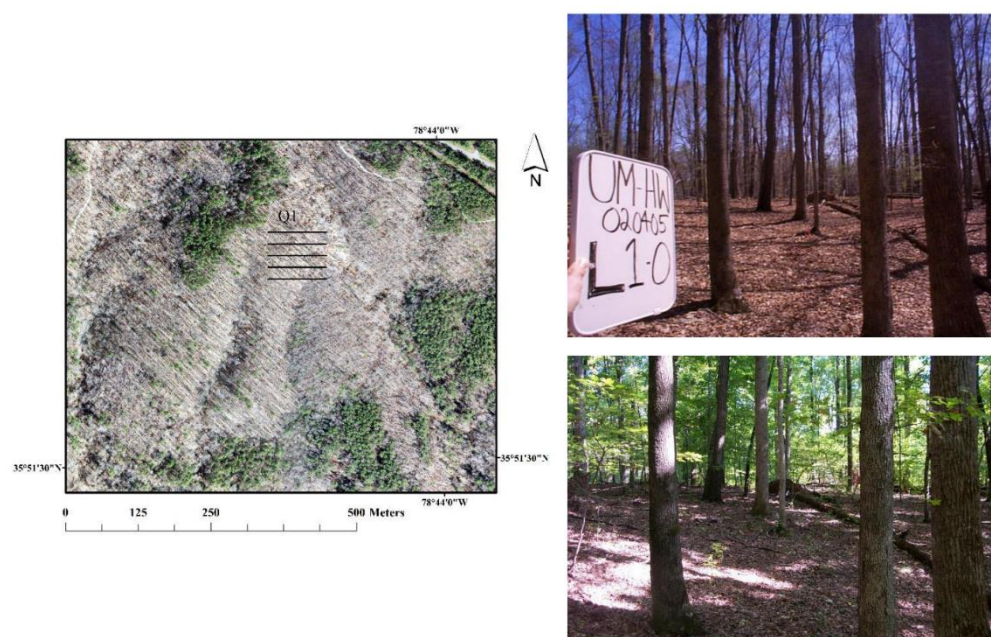


Figure S7. Umstead, NC site location. Image on left is a natural color digital ortho-quarter quadrangle image with plot location Q1 depicted within the oak-hickory hardwood stand. Leaf-off and leaf-on images are shown on the right.

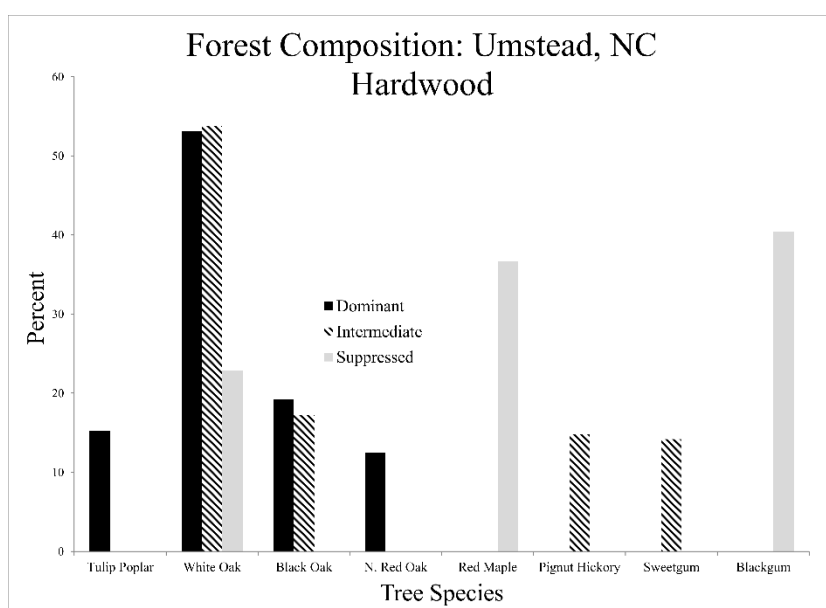


Figure S8 Deciduous forest composition for the Fairystone LAI validation site, dominant-codominant, intermediate, and suppressed canopy.

1.5 All sites composition summary

Table S1. Forest stand structural attributes.

| | <i>Appomattox</i> | <i>Hertford</i> | <i>Fairystone</i> | <i>Umstead</i> |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| <i>TPH (Dom/CoDom)</i> | 1250 | 1740 | 288.8 | 101.5 |
| <i>TPH (Intermediate)</i> | | | 459 | 169.6 |
| <i>TPH (Suppressed)</i> | | | 277.9 | 333.6 |
| <i>TPH (Understory)</i> | 3790 | 2830 | | |
| <i>Stand Age (years)</i> | 23 | 19 | 80 | 80 |
| <i>DBH (cm) (Dom/CoDom)</i> | | | 24.8 | 43.5 |
| <i>DBH (cm) (Intermediate)</i> | | | 11.4 | 22.9 |
| <i>DBH (cm) (Suppressed)</i> | | | 11.1 | 11.7 |
| <i>DBH (cm) overall</i> | 21.6 | 18.5 | | |
| <i>Height (m) (Dom only)</i> | 15.9 | 14.3 | 18.9 | 24.4 |
| <i>BA/H (Dom/CoDom)</i> | | | 12.3 | 14.8 |
| <i>BA/H (Intermediate)</i> | | | 4.7 | 7.5 |
| <i>BA/H (Suppressed)</i> | | | 3.7 | 4.3 |
| <i>BA/H overall</i> | 36.7 | 37.3 | | |
| <i>CC%</i> | 71 | 71 | | |

2. EPIC model inputs and model runs

Table S2. Initial Cecil (1292NC0018VAC) soil profile used as input to the EPIC model at all forest calibration and verification sites.

| <i>Variable Name</i> | <i>layer 1</i> | <i>layer 2</i> | <i>layer 3</i> | <i>layer 4</i> | <i>layer 5</i> |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| <i>depth to bottom of layer (m)</i> | 0.1 | 0.18 | 0.28 | 1.26 | 1.9 |
| <i>bulk density ($t\ m^{-3}$)</i> | 1.54 | 1.54 | 1.48 | 1.48 | 1.67 |
| <i>wilting point ($m\ m^{-1}$)</i> | 0.06 | 0.06 | 0.15 | 0.27 | 0.01 |
| <i>field capacity ($m\ m^{-1}$)</i> | 0.13 | 0.13 | 0.28 | 0.42 | 0.04 |
| <i>% sand</i> | 67.85 | 67.85 | 55.08 | 18.14 | 67.85 |
| <i>% silt</i> | 19.65 | 19.65 | 17.42 | 29.36 | 19.65 |
| <i>soil pH</i> | 6.6 | 6.6 | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| <i>organic carbon conc. (%)</i> | 1.56 | 1.39 | 1.16 | 0.12 | 0.02 |
| <i>cation exch. cpcty ($cmol\ kg^{-1}$)</i> | 3.82 | 3.82 | 5.94 | 5.43 | 0 |
| <i>coarse fragment content (% vol.)</i> | 25 | 25 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| <i>initial NO3 concentration ($g\ t^{-1}$)</i> | 5 | 5 | 5 | 2 | 2 |
| <i>initial labile P concentration ($g\ t^{-1}$)</i> | 8 | 8 | 8 | 4 | 4 |
| <i>bulk density oven dry ($t\ m^{-3}$)</i> | 1.54 | 1.54 | 1.48 | 1.48 | 1.67 |

The single, “representative” soil that was used at all of the forest sites (Table S1.3) derives from soil parameters contained within the Baumer database built by Dr. Otto Baumer shortly after he retired from the USDA, National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Soils Laboratory in Lincoln, Nebraska. Dr. Baumer created the database under contract with the Texas A&M Blackland Research Station. The EPIC soil datasets were built to represent the sample point soils selected for the 1997 USDA Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) data points. However, the Baumer database does not include complete datasets for all soils sampled by the NRI because some soils lacked key information to build the EPIC soil file. This analysis used soils identified in the Baumer database as complete. Dr. Baumer used the SOILS-5 database (Soils-5 is the name of the input form used to enter data into the Official Series Descriptions for SCS soil surveys) and soil pedon data to develop the representative EPIC data sets.

The Baumer data base includes soil information by state compiled from various sources he acquired. The files contained some information on over 200,000 soils at NRI points. A subset of nearly 45,000 soils contained potentially usable data. This information was used to create a subset of soil parameters to be used with EPIC for almost 23,000 soils. The Baumer soils data base may be downloaded as part of the Fertilizer Emission Scenario Tool for CMAQ (FEST-C) package available at no charge at <http://www.cmascenter.org/>.

Table S3a. Selected initial EPIC crop parameter values for tree species simulated at the four forest field sample sites. An entry of N/A indicates no initial parameter values were available

| | <i>Pine</i> | <i>Oak</i> | <i>R. Maple</i> | <i>Swt. Gum</i> | <i>Ch. Oak</i> | <i>P. Hickory</i> | <i>A. Holly</i> | <i>Y. Poplar</i> | <i>B. Oak</i> | <i>NR Oak</i> |
|-------|-------------|------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|
| WA | 16 | 15 | N/A | 16 | N/A | N/A | N/A | 30 | N/A | N/A |
| TOP | 20 | 30 | N/A | 25 | N/A | N/A | N/A | 30 | N/A | N/A |
| TBS | 2 | 10 | N/A | 5 | N/A | N/A | N/A | 10 | N/A | N/A |
| DMLA | 5 | 5 | N/A | 5 | N/A | N/A | N/A | 5 | N/A | N/A |
| DLAI | 0.15 | 0.99 | N/A | 0.75 | N/A | N/A | N/A | 0.99 | N/A | N/A |
| DLAP1 | 10.5 | 5.05 | N/A | 15.4 | N/A | N/A | N/A | 5.05 | N/A | N/A |
| DLAP2 | 25.99 | 40.95 | N/A | 30.8 | N/A | N/A | N/A | 40.95 | N/A | N/A |
| RBMD | 1 | 1 | N/A | 1 | N/A | N/A | N/A | 1 | N/A | N/A |
| HMX | 20 | 6 | N/A | 80 | N/A | N/A | N/A | 7.5 | N/A | N/A |
| FRST1 | 5.01 | 5.1 | N/A | 5.1 | N/A | N/A | N/A | 5.1 | N/A | N/A |
| FRST2 | 15.03 | 15.5 | N/A | 15.5 | N/A | N/A | N/A | 15.5 | N/A | N/A |
| PPLP1 | 1000.95 | 1000.95 | N/A | 1000.95 | N/A | N/A | N/A | 500.95 | N/A | N/A |
| PPLP2 | 100.1 | 100.05 | N/A | 100.05 | N/A | N/A | N/A | 20.15 | N/A | N/A |

Table S3b. Selected calibrated EPIC crop parameter values for tree species simulated at the four forest field sample sites.

| | <i>Pine</i> | <i>Oak</i> | <i>R. Maple</i> | <i>Swt. Gum</i> | <i>Ch. Oak</i> | <i>P. Hickory</i> | <i>A. Holly</i> | <i>Y. Poplar</i> | <i>B. Oak</i> | <i>NR Oak</i> |
|-------|-------------|------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|
| WA | 16 | 15 | 15 | 16 | 15 | 15 | 16 | 30 | 15 | 15 |
| TOP | 20 | 30 | 20 | 25 | 30 | 20 | 20 | 30 | 30 | 30 |
| TBS | 2 | 10 | 2 | 10 | 10 | 2 | 5 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| DMLA | 0.5 | 3 | 3.75 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 5.5 |
| DLAI | 0.75 | 0.9 | 0.5 | 0.03 | 0.99 | 0.05 | 0.75 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 |
| DLAP1 | 5.05 | 15.7 | 5.05 | 10.01 | 15.7 | 5.3 | 5.05 | 5.2 | 15.7 | 15.7 |
| DLAP2 | 85.95 | 30.99 | 40.95 | 40.95 | 30.99 | 30.95 | 85.95 | 40.95 | 30.99 | 30.99 |
| RBMD | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0.2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| HMX | 23 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 18 | 18 | 7 | 10 | 20 | 20 |
| FRST1 | 5.01 | 5.3 | 5.01 | 5.01 | 5.1 | 5.1 | 5.01 | 5.1 | 5.3 | 5.3 |
| FRST2 | 15.03 | 15.6 | 15.95 | 15.95 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.03 | 15.5 | 15.6 | 15.6 |
| PPLP1 | 1500.95 | 1500.96 | 1000.95 | 1000.95 | 9000.95 | 9000.95 | 6000.95 | 5000.95 | 1500.95 | 1500.95 |
| PPLP2 | 5.05 | 5.05 | 300.05 | 300.05 | 1500.05 | 1500.05 | 2000.05 | 300.05 | 5.05 | 5.05 |

Table S3c EPIC variable Key

(https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcs143_012924.pdf)

| Variable | Description |
|----------|--|
| WA | Biomass-Energy Ratio, potential unstressed growth rate (kg/MJ) |
| TOP | Optimal temperature for plant growth (C ^o) |
| TBS | Minimum temperature for plant growth (C ^o) |
| DMLA | Maximum potential leaf area index |
| DLAI | Fraction of growing season when leaf area declines |
| DLAP1 | First point on optimal leaf area development curve |
| DLAP2 | Second point on optimal leaf area development curve |
| RBMD | Biomass-energy ratio decline rate parameter |
| HMX | Maximum crop height |
| FRST1 | First point on frost damage curve |
| FRST2 | First point on frost damage curve |
| PPLP1 | Plant Population for Crops and Grass - 1st Point on curve |
| PPLP2 | Plant Population for Crops and Grass - 2nd Point on curve |

References for supplemental data

Bash, J.O.; Cooter, E.J.; Dennis, R.L.; Walker, J.T.; Pleim, J.E. Evaluation of a regional air quality model with bidirectional NH₃ exchanged coupled to an agro-ecosystem model. *Biogeosciences*, 2013, 10, 1635-1645, Available online: <https://www.biogeosciences.net/10/1635/2013/> (accessed on 31 October 2017).