

#### **Improving leaf wetness duration modeling with simple physics : applications to apple scab**

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### Improving leaf wetness duration modeling with simple physics Application to apple scab

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### Who are you really, Leaf Wetness Duration ?

**LWD = Time during which a leaf is wet**



Two phenomena

WD = Liquid Water Deposition + Liquid Water Evaporation



How much water on which leaves?

How fast does it dry?



## How do we measure WD?

#### Many techniques used<sup>1</sup>



Mostly used one : **Impedance grid**

#### **BUT**

The sensors "*dried when 15-30% of the foliage was still wet*" <sup>2</sup> : still, we don't know **how susceptible to fungal pathogens** this foliage was

Which inclination? <sup>3</sup> Latex painted or not? 2,3 Covered or under clear sky?<sup>4</sup> At which height?<sup>3,5,6</sup>

#### **How can we be accurate and progress when there is no standard in WD sensing? Are drying times really that different from sensors to susceptible apple leaves ?**

 $<sup>1</sup>$  Huber, 1992</sup> <sup>2</sup> Gillespie & Kidd, 1978

<sup>3</sup> Lau et al., 2000 4 Leca, 2011

<sup>5</sup> Batzer et al., 2008 <sup>6</sup> Sentelhas et al., 2005



## A simple WD measurement

Objective : to estimate ΔWD between **susceptible** leaves and sensors

Same volume of water evaporated under controlled conditions (temperature, relative humidity, radiation)





## A simple WD measurement



*cv* McIntosh, apple scab susceptible leaves

- Temperature :  $0 26$  °C
- Relative Humidity :  $15 91$  %
- PAR Radiation :  $0 510 \mu$ Mol.m<sup>-2</sup>.s<sup>-1</sup>

 $DH_{leaf} = 1.54 * DH_{sensor} + 66.99$ ;  $R^2 = 0.79$ 

Water drying on leaves is 1.5 times slower than on sensors!

#### **No standard, large discrepancies between leaves and sensors… What about a physics based modeling approach?**







### Spatial distribution of water



#### **Water interception**

Assuming the "Leaf Area Index proxy" (Magarey, 2005)

Tree's LAI or better : LAI of different layers in the tree

 $V_p$  = precipitation water volume  $V_0$  = intercepted water volume

$$
V_0 = (1 - \exp(-0.5LAI))^*V_p
$$

#### **Water storage capacity**



 $V_1$  = critical water volume before overflowing  $V_2$  = overflown water volume  $V_3$  = remaining water volume

If 
$$
V_0 \ge V_1 : V_3 = V_1 - V_2
$$
  
If  $V_0 < V_1 : V_3 = V_0$ 



Evaporation

Energy budget at the water  $-$  air interface





Exchange surface and wettability

Exchange surface at air-liquid interface = f(drop shape)

Drop shape = f(surface tensions coexistence at *triple point*)

Quantified by the contact angle θ





Variables involved

Quantity of incoming liquid water How is it distributed inside the tree?

 $V0 = (1 - exp(-0.5LAI))^*VP$ 

If  $\sqrt{0} \ge \sqrt{1}$ :  $\sqrt{3} = \sqrt{1} - \sqrt{2}$ 

If  $\sqrt{0} \leq \sqrt{1}$ :  $\sqrt{3} = \sqrt{0}$ 

Output **I Input required** 

Precipitation rate & intensity

Tree's LAI(s)



#### Leaf Wetness Duration



**+**

**+**

**=**

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 $λE + C = R<sub>n</sub>$ 

## What has been done so far

Data acquisition to define model parameters :

 $\boxtimes$  Meteorological data collection throughout the season

- Wettability Measurements on *cv* McIntosh susceptible leaves
- Water storage capacity of *cv* McIntosh susceptible leaves
- McIntosh trees LAI measurement in our experimental orchard

#### Model programming and development :

Evaporation module✓



# Why measure wettability?

#### Modeling with the right wettability is **crucial**



#### **WD<sup>θ</sup><sup>110</sup> ≈ 2\*WD<sup>θ</sup><sup>55</sup>**



Seems to be cultivar dependent (2 cv studied so far) <sup>1</sup> : requires measures for each *cv* ?

Are there average values on susceptible apple leaves? Reps would tell!

Once the device is set, measurements are quite fast !



First step : **McIntosh** (64% of apples produced in Quebec)

 $1$  Leca, 2011



## McIntosh wettability

Contact angle value depends on initial conditions :

- leaf's initial wetting (wet or dry?)
- dew water forming on the leaf or dripping?
- raindrops falling at which speed?



In laboratory conditions : different falling speeds reproduced by varying falling height

Contact angle correlated with falling height  $\rightarrow$  Correlated with drop speed at the impact

What about the initial wetting of leaf ?



### McIntosh wettability

Wettability in function of falling speed for different wetting initial conditions





## McIntosh wettability

**Weber number** links impact velocity to spreading of the drop (further utility as a splashing descriptor<sup>1</sup>)

$$
W_e = \frac{m v^2}{\sigma}
$$

 $m:$  mass of raindrop  $v:$  raindrop terminal velocity  $\sigma$ : water surface tension

Using Weber number to model contact angle of falling droplets :

**In the case of falling droplets : In the case of formed dew**

 $\theta_{dry}$ (°) = -1,59 \*  $\alpha$  + 73,02 ;  $R^2$  = 0,74<br>  $\theta_{wet}$ (°) = -0,69 \*  $\alpha$  + 33,92 ;  $R^2$  = 0,84

 $\alpha = \frac{W_e \sigma}{2 m a}$  g : earth gravity constant

**(no falling speed) :** 

$$
\theta_{dry} = (110, 2 \pm 3, 2) \degree
$$
  
\n
$$
\theta_{wet} = (56, 4 \pm 5, 8) \degree
$$

<sup>1</sup> Saint-Jean et al., 2006



## Evaporation module

#### **Evaporation module fully coded**

Accuracy evaluated by using controled conditions drying durations  $1,2,3$ 



Variations range :

$$
T_{air}: 10-35 °C
$$
  
RH: 14-90 %  
U: 0,025-5 m.s-1  
R<sub>g</sub>: 0-875 W.m-2  
V: 1-50 µL

<sup>1</sup> Leclerc et al., 1985 <sup>2</sup> Magarey et al., 2005 <sup>3</sup> Leca, 2011 *unpublished work*



## What is left to do

- Develop the water input module to finish LWD model
- Use the measured data (T<sub>air</sub>, RH, U, R<sub>g</sub>, LWD) to validate and adjust model





## Leads for the future ?





LWD for other species

- not much to change (wettability, boundary layer)
- might be of interest for several pathosystems

#### FWD : Fruit Wetness Duration?

- Great fruits temperature model exists  $1$
- Useful to estimate sooty blotch flyspeck
- water dynamics (wettability, droplets sliding, etc.) are a nice and realistic challenge

Any other idea ?

<sup>1</sup> Saudreau et al., 2011



### **Thank you for your attention !!**



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