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▶ To cite this version:

Alexandre Leca. Improving leaf wetness duration modeling with simple physics : applications to apple scab. 75. New England, NY, Canada Fruit Pest Management Workshop, 2013, Burlington, VT, United States. hal-01594312

HAL Id: hal-01594312 https://hal.science/hal-01594312v1

Submitted on 6 Jun2020

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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 used¹



Mostly used one : Impedance grid

BUT

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

Which inclination? ³ Latex painted or not? ^{2,3} Covered or under clear sky?⁴ At which height? ^{3,5,6}

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 ?

> ¹ Huber, 1992 ³ La ² Gillespie & Kidd, 1978 ⁴ Le

³ Lau et al., 2000 ⁵ ⁴ Leca, 2011 ⁶

⁵ Batzer et al., 2008
⁶ 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⁻².s⁻¹

 $DH_{leaf} = 1,54 * DH_{sensor} + 66,99$; $R^2 = 0,79$

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

$$V_0 = (1 - \exp(-0.5 \text{LAI}))^* V_P$$

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 $\boldsymbol{\theta}$





Variables involved





What has been done so far

Data acquisition to define model parameters :

- 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?

WDθ110 **≈ 2*WD**θ55



Seems to be cultivar dependent (2 cv studied so far) ¹ : 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 descriptor¹)

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

m: mass of raindropv: raindrop terminal velocity σ : water surface tension

Using Weber number to model contact angle of falling droplets :

In the case of falling droplets :

 $\begin{aligned} \theta_{dry}(^{\circ}) &= -1,59 * \alpha + 73,02 \ ; \ R^2 &= 0,74 \\ \theta_{wet}(^{\circ}) &= -0,69 * \alpha + 33,92 \ ; \ R^2 &= 0,84 \end{aligned}$

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

In the case of formed dew (no falling speed) :

$$\theta_{dry} = (110,2 \pm 3,2)^{\circ}$$

 $\theta_{wet} = (56,4 \pm 5,8)^{\circ}$

¹ 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_g : 0 – 875 W.m-2 V : 1 – 50 μL

¹ Leclerc et al., 1985
 ² Magarey et al., 2005
 ³ Leca, 2011 unpublished work



What is left to do

- Develop the water input module to finish LWD model
- Use the measured data (T_{air}, RH, U, R_g, 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 ?

¹ Saudreau et al., 2011



Thank you for your attention !!



Contributed to this work : M. Boissières, J.Tardif, V. Joubert, V.Philion



Funding for this project has been provided in part through the Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program (CAAP) on behalf of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. In Quebec, the portion intended for the agricultural-production sector is being managed by the Conseil pour le développement de l'agriculture du Québec (CDAQ).



d Agriculture et ada Agroalimentaire Canada

