
2. Area, biomass, and productivity of ecosystem types

| ecosystem type* | area (10^{12} m ²) | mean plant biomass [kg(C)/m ²] | average net primary productivity [kg(C)/m ² /yr] |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|---|
| tropical forests | 24.5 | 18.8 | 0.83 |
| temperate forests | 12.0 | 14.6 | 0.56 |
| boreal forests | 12.0 | 9.0 | 0.36 |
| woodland and shrubland | 8.0 | 2.7 | 0.27 |
| savanna | 15.0 | 1.8 | 0.32 |
| grassland | 9.0 | 0.7 | 0.23 |
| tundra and alpine meadow | 8.0 | 0.3 | 0.065 |
| desert scrub | 18.0 | 0.3 | 0.032 |
| rock, ice, and sand | 24.0 | 0.01 | 0.015 |
| cultivated land | 14.0 | 0.5 | 0.29 |
| swamp and marsh | 2.0 | 6.8 | 1.13 |
| lake and stream | 2.5 | 0.01 | 0.23 |
| open ocean | 332.0 | 0.0014 | 0.057 |
| upwelling zones | 0.4 | 0.01 | 0.23 |
| continental shelf | 26.6 | 0.005 | 0.16 |
| algal bed and reef | 0.6 | 0.9 | 0.90 |
| estuaries | 1.4 | 0.45 | 0.81 |

*For a description of each of the major types of ecosystems (deserts, boreal forests, estuaries, etc.), see Whittaker (1970), Whittaker and Likens (1973), and Ehrlich et al. (1977).
