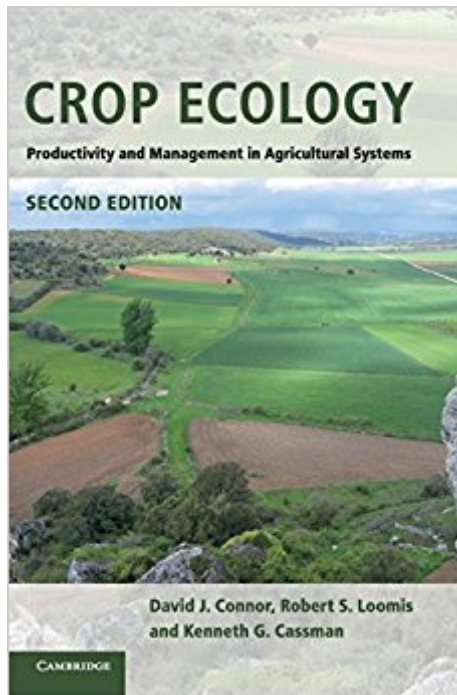




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Crop Ecology: Productivity And Management In Agricultural Systems



Synopsis

Food security and environmental conservation are two of the greatest challenges facing the world today. It is predicted that food production must increase by at least 70% before 2050 to support continued population growth, though the size of the world's agricultural area will remain essentially unchanged. This updated and thoroughly revised second edition provides in-depth coverage of the impact of environmental conditions and management on crops, resource requirements for productivity and effects on soil resources. The approach is explanatory and integrative, with a firm basis in environmental physics, soils, physiology and morphology. System concepts are explored in detail throughout the book, giving emphasis to quantitative approaches, management strategies and tactics employed by farmers, and associated environmental issues. Drawing on key examples and highlighting the role of science, technology and economic conditions in determining management strategies, this book is suitable for agriculturalists, ecologists and environmental scientists.

Book Information

Hardcover: 576 pages

Publisher: Cambridge University Press; 2 edition (August 29, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0521761271

ISBN-13: 978-0521761277

Product Dimensions: 6.8 x 1.1 x 9.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.7 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (3 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,738,351 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #315 inÂ Books > Science & Math > Agricultural Sciences > Crop Science #1404 inÂ Books > Textbooks > Science & Mathematics > Agriculture #2311 inÂ Books > Science & Math > Nature & Ecology > Natural Resources

Customer Reviews

This isn't "Agriculture for Dummies", but is the text really "all equations" as another reviewer claimed? I sampled every 50 pages in the first printing.p. 50: Text, plus graphs showing how crop growth rate increases with light interception by leaves. I have found it really useful to look down on a crop from above. If I can see a lot of soil, than lots of sunlight is being wasted, evaporating water from the soil rather than driving photosynthesis and growth.p. 100: Text plus a graph showing daylength as a function of date and latitude. Very useful for crops whose flowering depends on

daylength. The caption mentions that the equations used are available on another page.p. 150: Text on climate and weather, including principles of frost protection. No graphs or equations.p. 200: Finally an equation. This one tells how fast soil organic matter breaks down. This seems worthwhile, especially if you're adding crop residues or manure to soil, and it's not very complicated.p. 250: Text plus a graph showing crop water use as a function of leaf area. Very useful, especially if you irrigate. Even if you don't it's helpful in deciding how densely to plant your crop and in figuring out whether a rainfed crop is likely to run out of water.p. 300: Text plus a table giving the composition of various crops (% protein, etc.) and explaining how crop composition affects growth rate from a given amount of photosynthate. Essential information for plant breeders, or anyone who wants to understand why higher-protein crops tend to have lower yields.OK, you get the idea.

This book was of little value to me. I thought it would be more useful and practical. Instead its all equations and mathematical formulas. Its not understandable at all. Guess I'd need a couple doctorate degrees to get anything out of it.

excellent book

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