



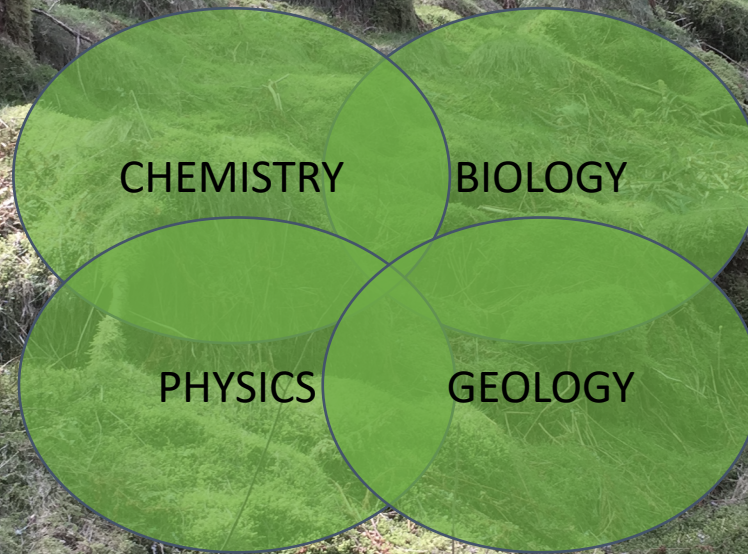
# Biogeochemistry & Vegetation C Dynamics

**Danica Lombardozi**, Rosie Fisher, Quinn Thomas, David Lawrence, Charlie Koven, Sean Swenson, Bill Riley, Will Wieder, Gordon Bonan, Keith Oleson, Peter Lawrence, Chonggang Xu, Daniel Kennedy, Mingjie Shi, Josh Fisher, Ben Sanderson, Kyla Dahlin, Jingyung Tang, Bardan Ghmire, Erik Kluzek, Mariana Vertenstein, Bill Sacks, Ben Andre, Ryan Knox (and more!)

A photograph of a forest floor covered in thick, vibrant green moss and lichen. The moss is growing in large, rounded mounds between tree trunks. The tree trunks are dark brown and appear to be covered in a thin layer of moss or lichen. The background shows more trees and a dense canopy. The overall scene is a lush, mossy forest floor.

What is biogeochemistry?

**BIOGEOCHEMISTRY** is the study of the **cycles** of **chemical elements**, such as **carbon** and **nitrogen**, and their incorporation into **living things**



# Today's Path

1) Why is biogeochemistry important

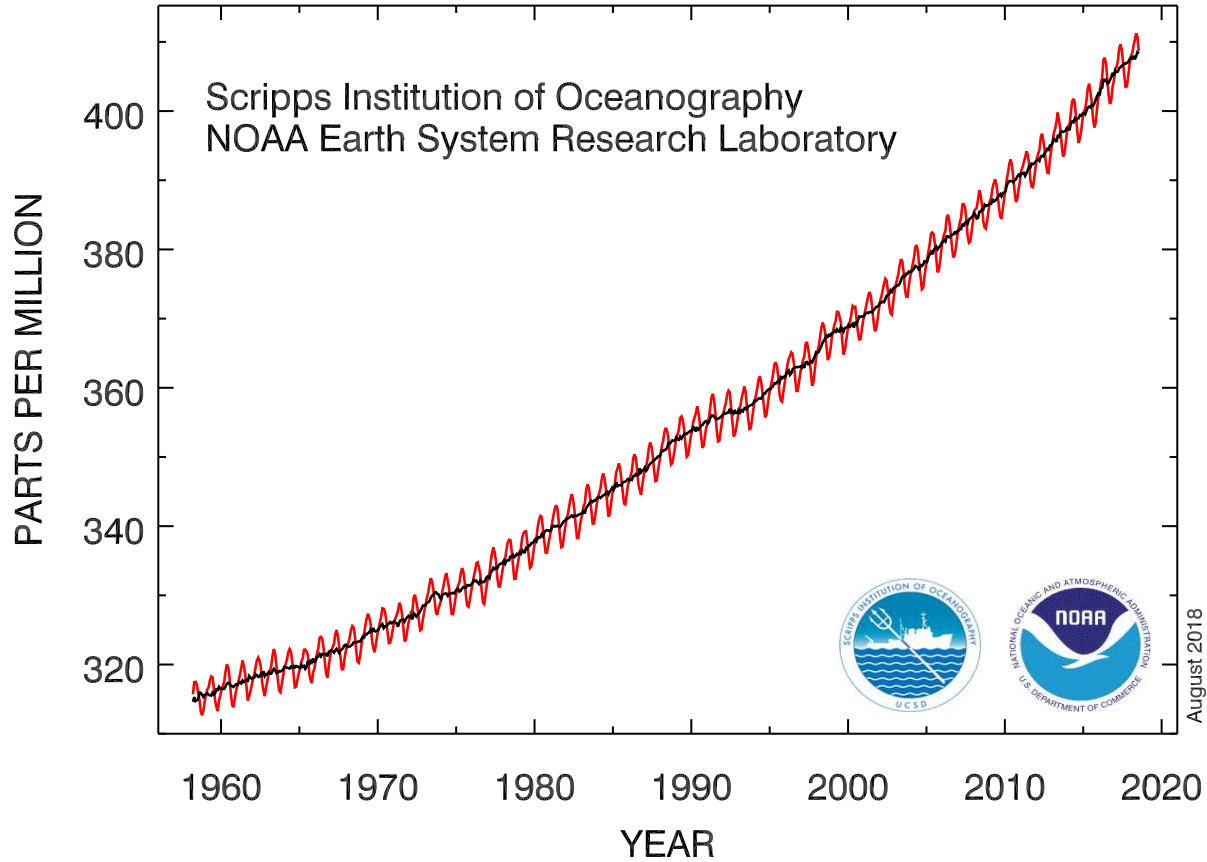
2) Vegetation C dynamics

- a) Allocation
- b) Respiration
- c) Phenology
- d) Mortality

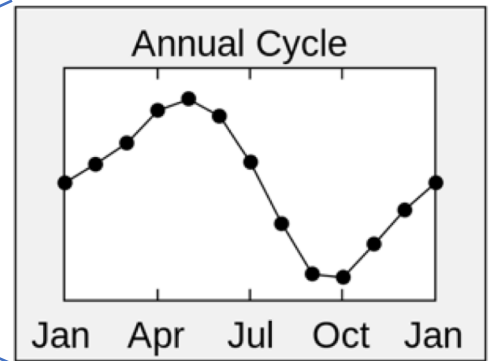
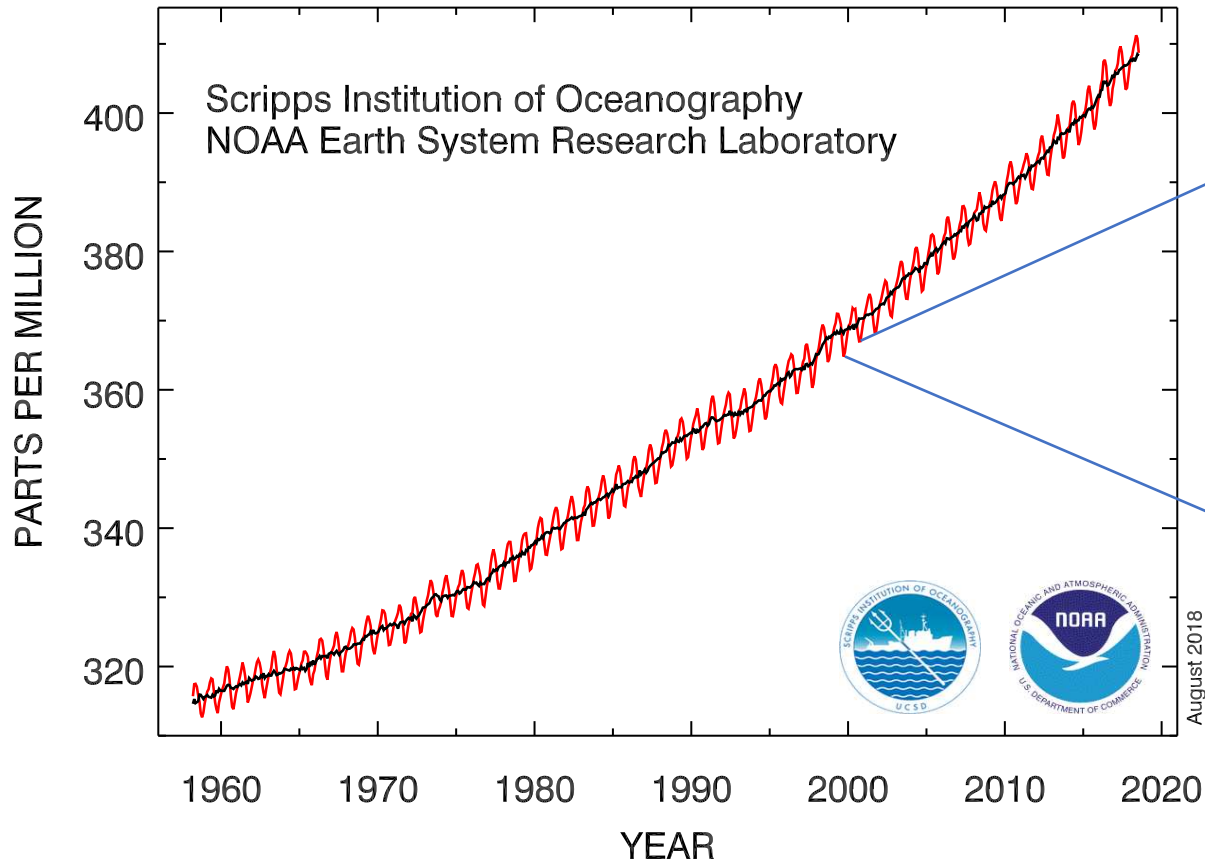


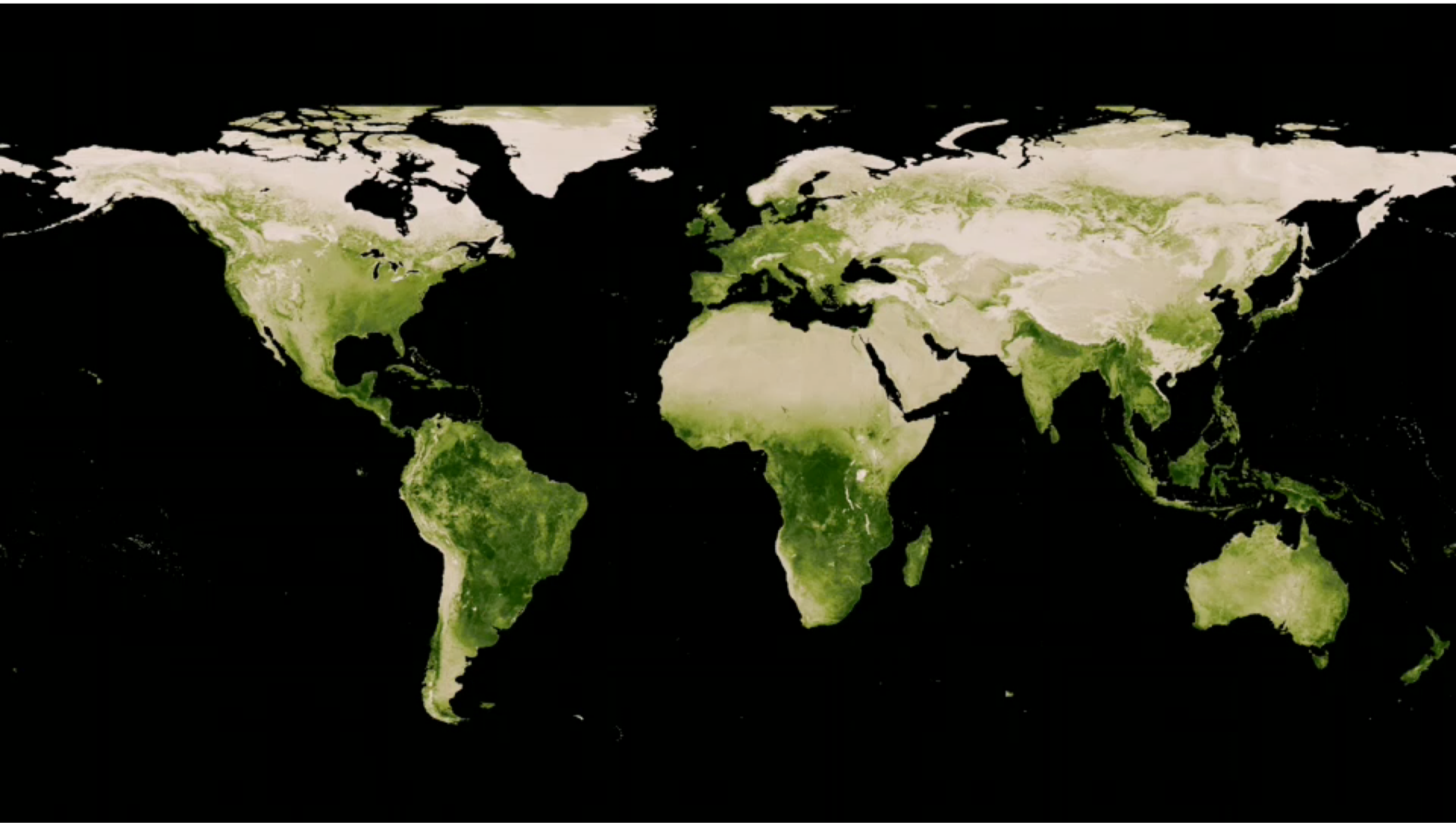
1. Why is biogeochemistry important?

# Atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> at Mauna Loa Observatory



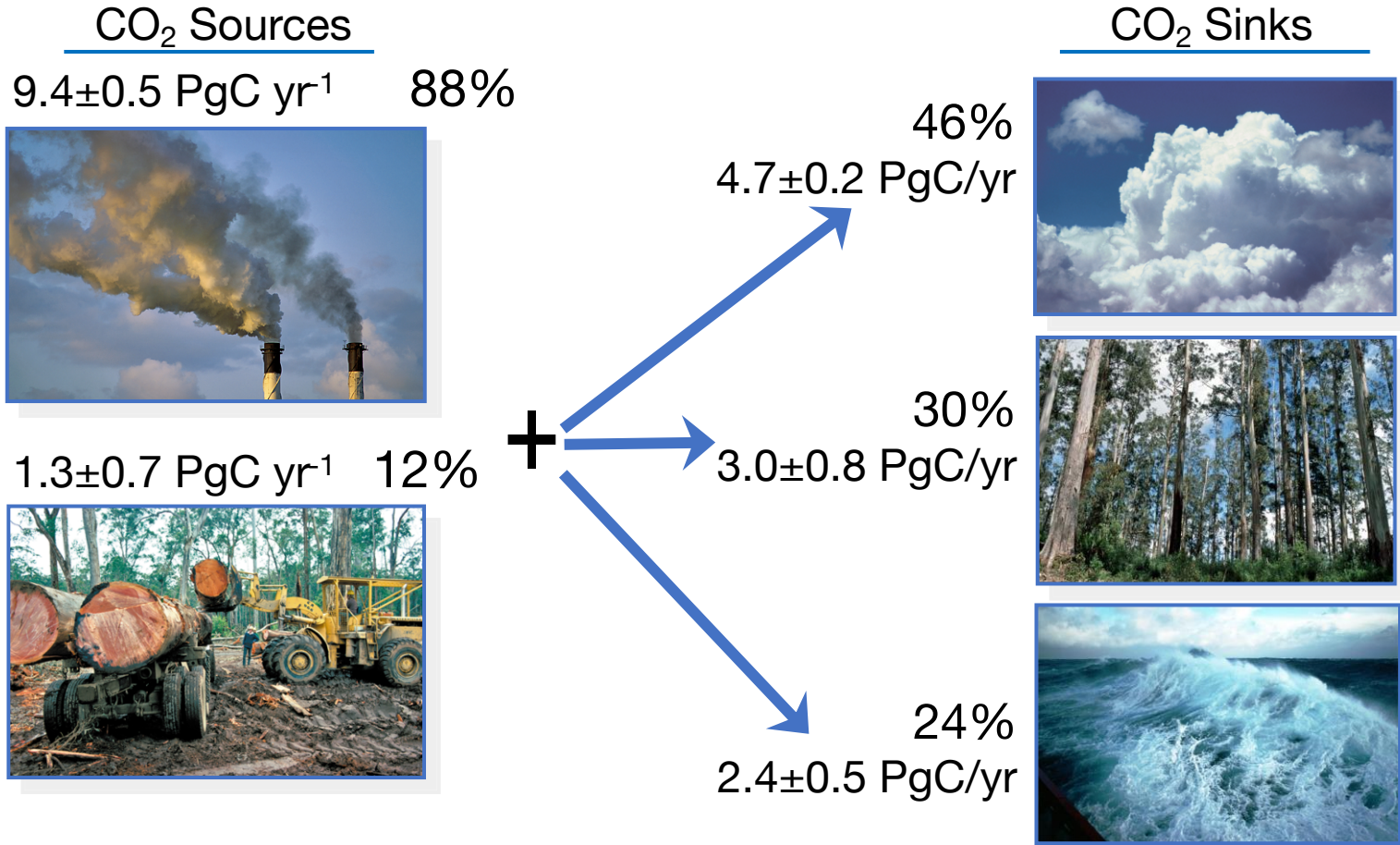
# Atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> at Mauna Loa Observatory





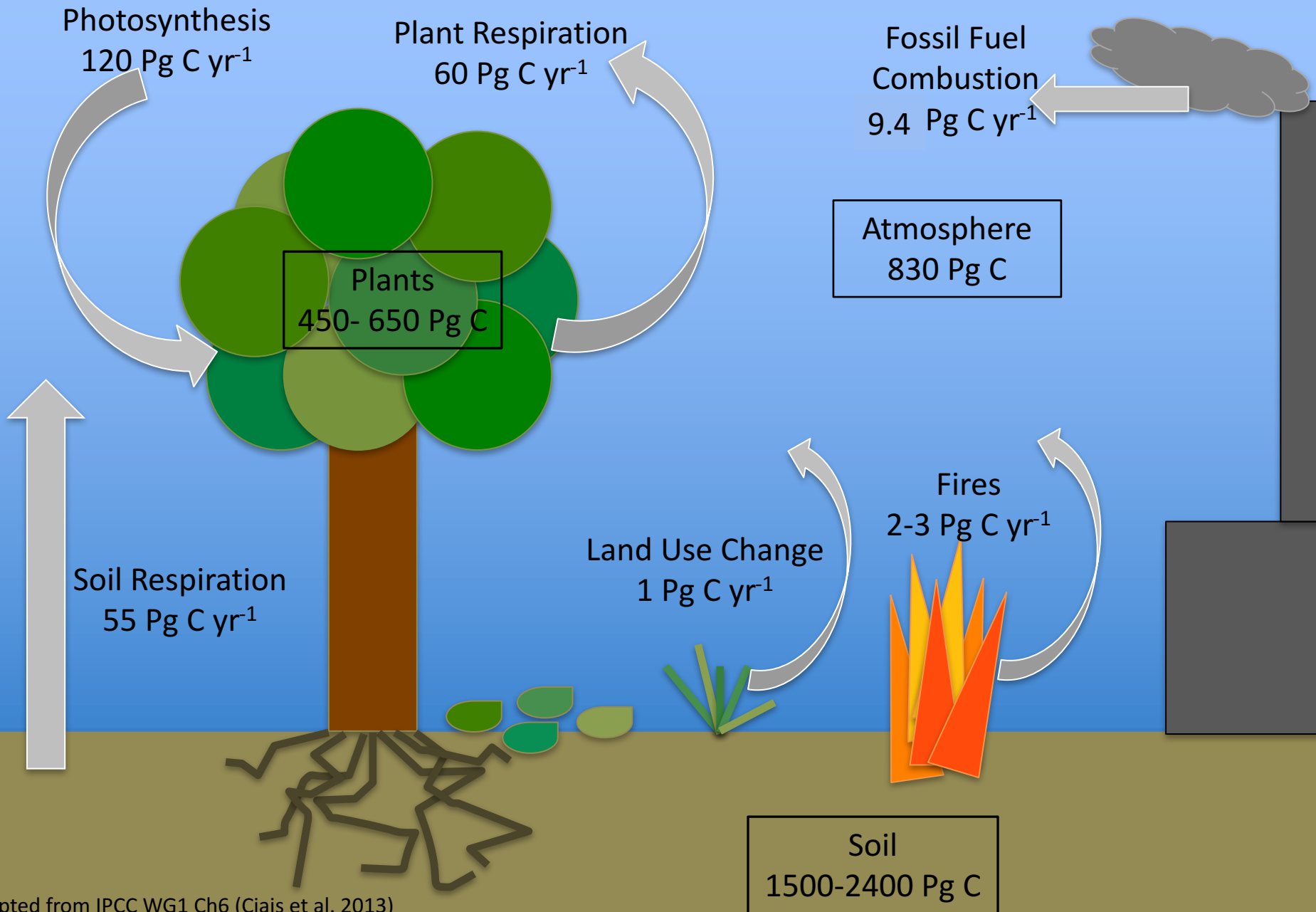


# Land is a critical sink of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions



Notes: Values are averaged from 2007 – 2016; Budget Imbalance: 0.6 Pg C yr<sup>-1</sup>; Source: Le Quéré et al. 2017

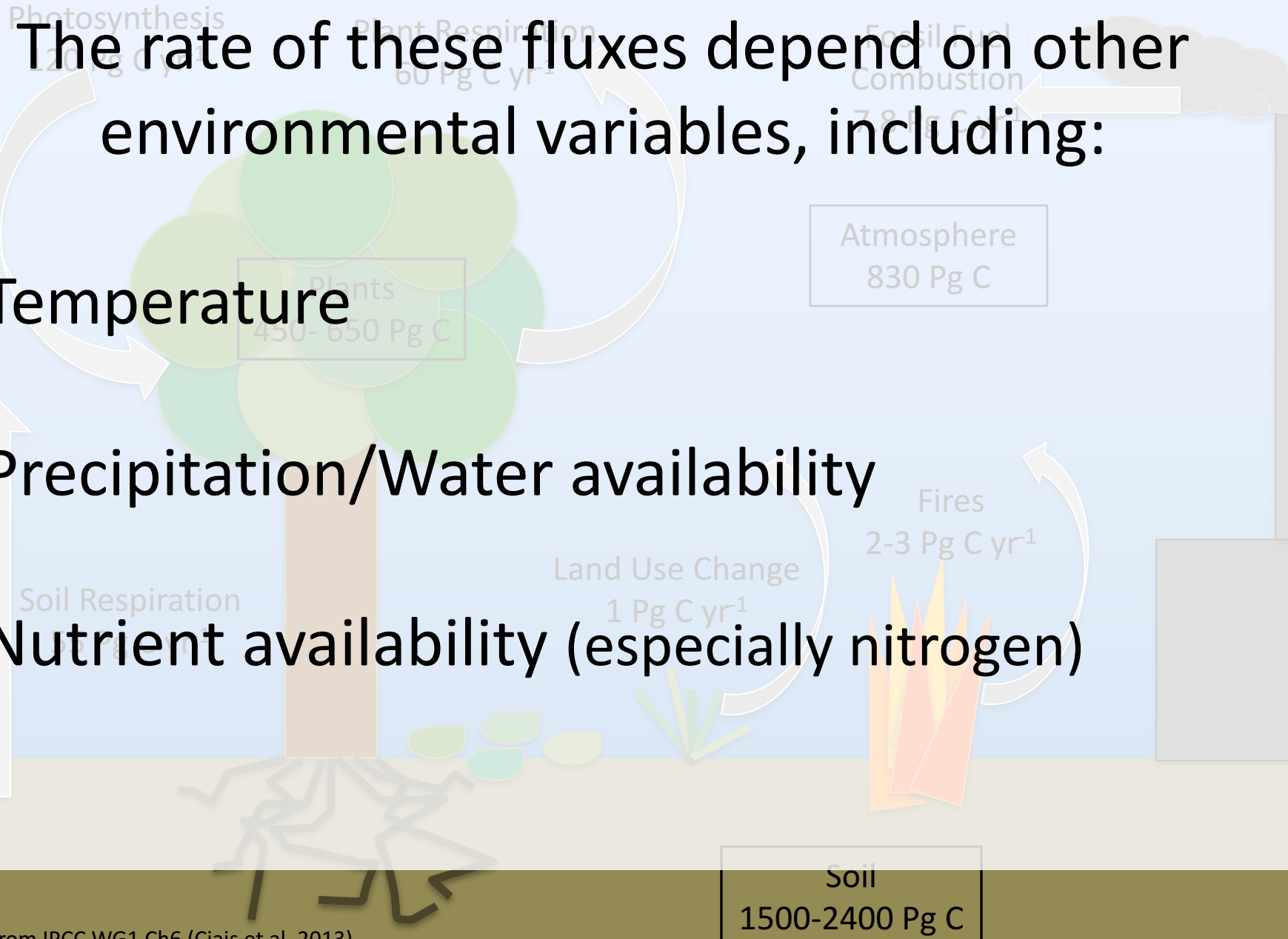
# Terrestrial Carbon Cycle



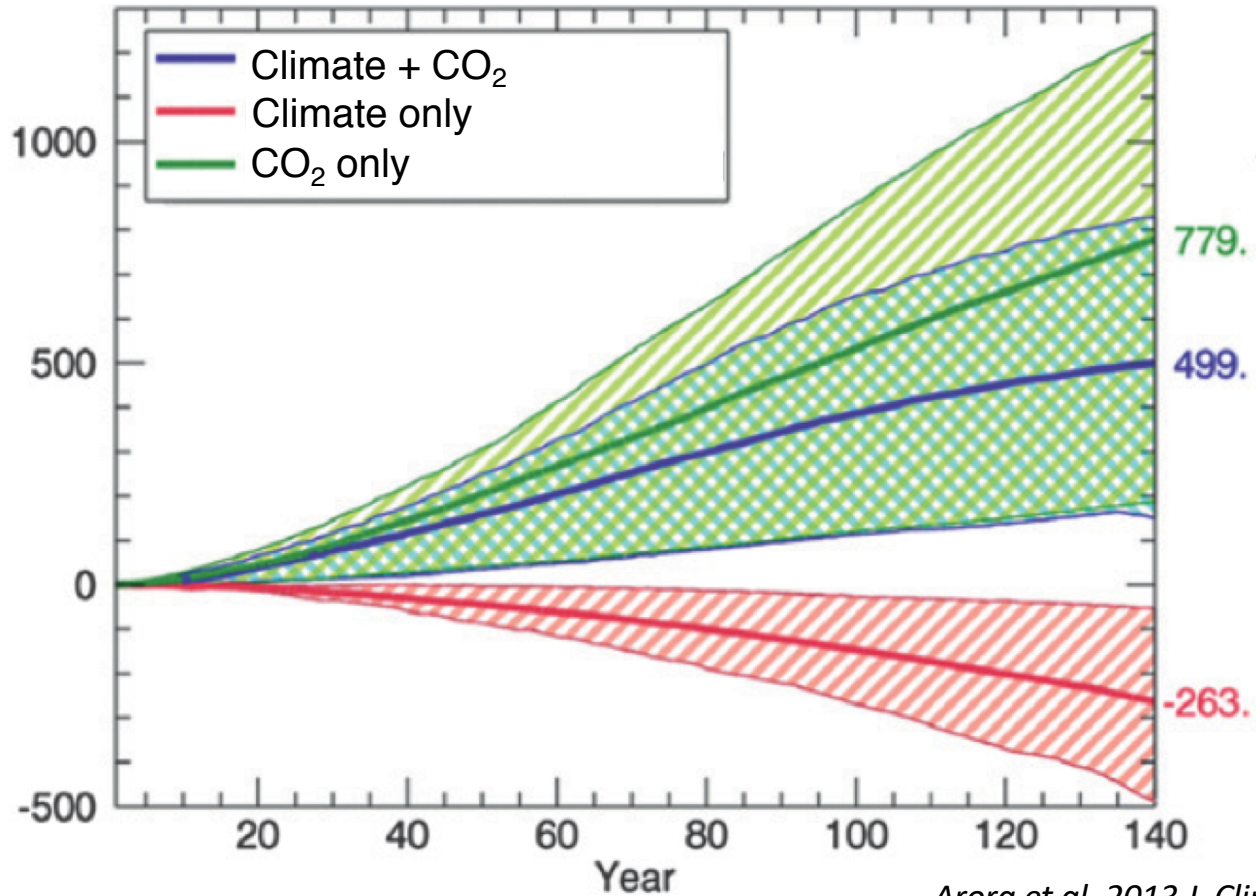
# Terrestrial Carbon Cycle

The rate of these fluxes depend on other environmental variables, including:

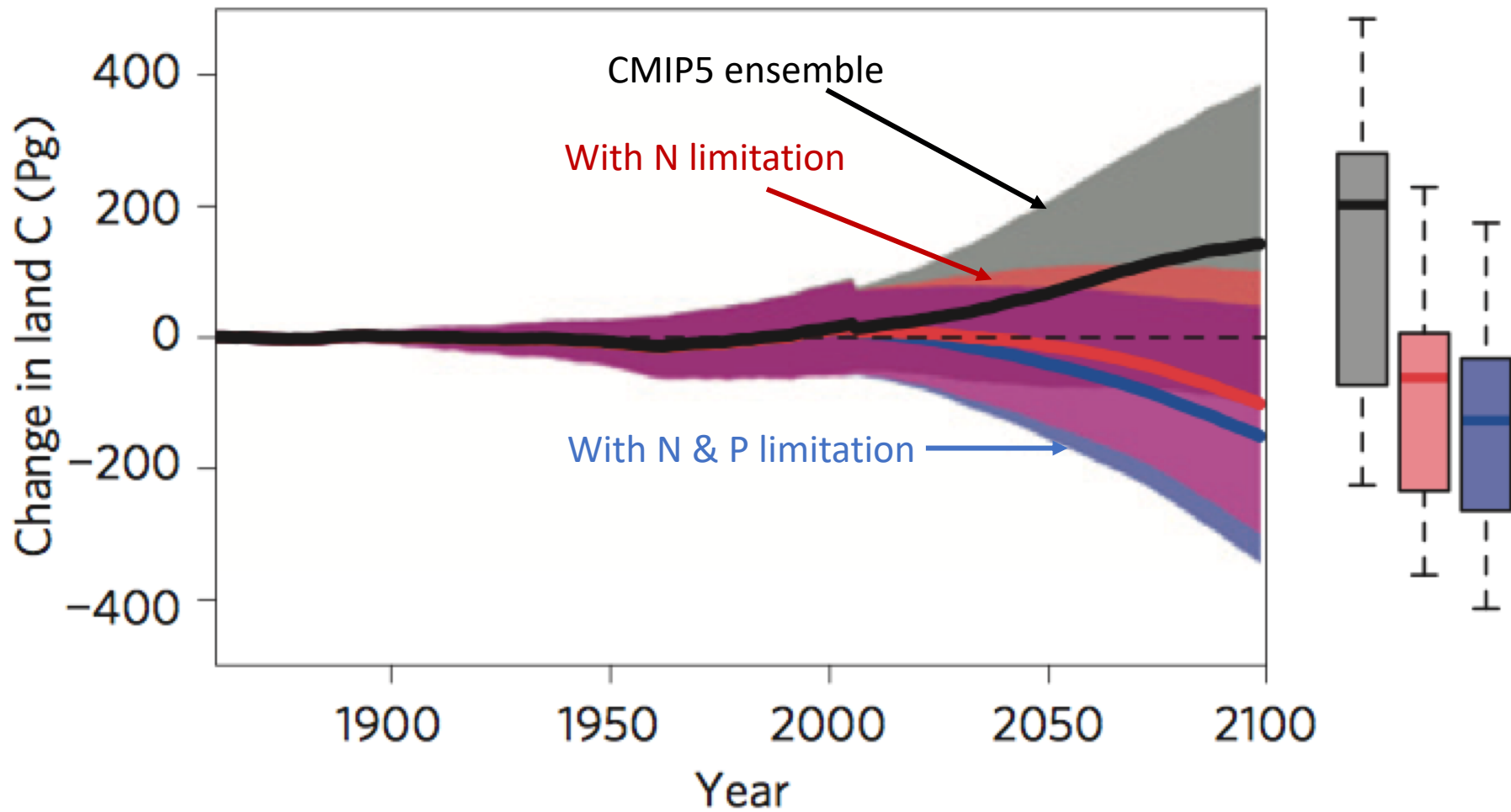
- Temperature
- Precipitation/Water availability
- Nutrient availability (especially nitrogen)



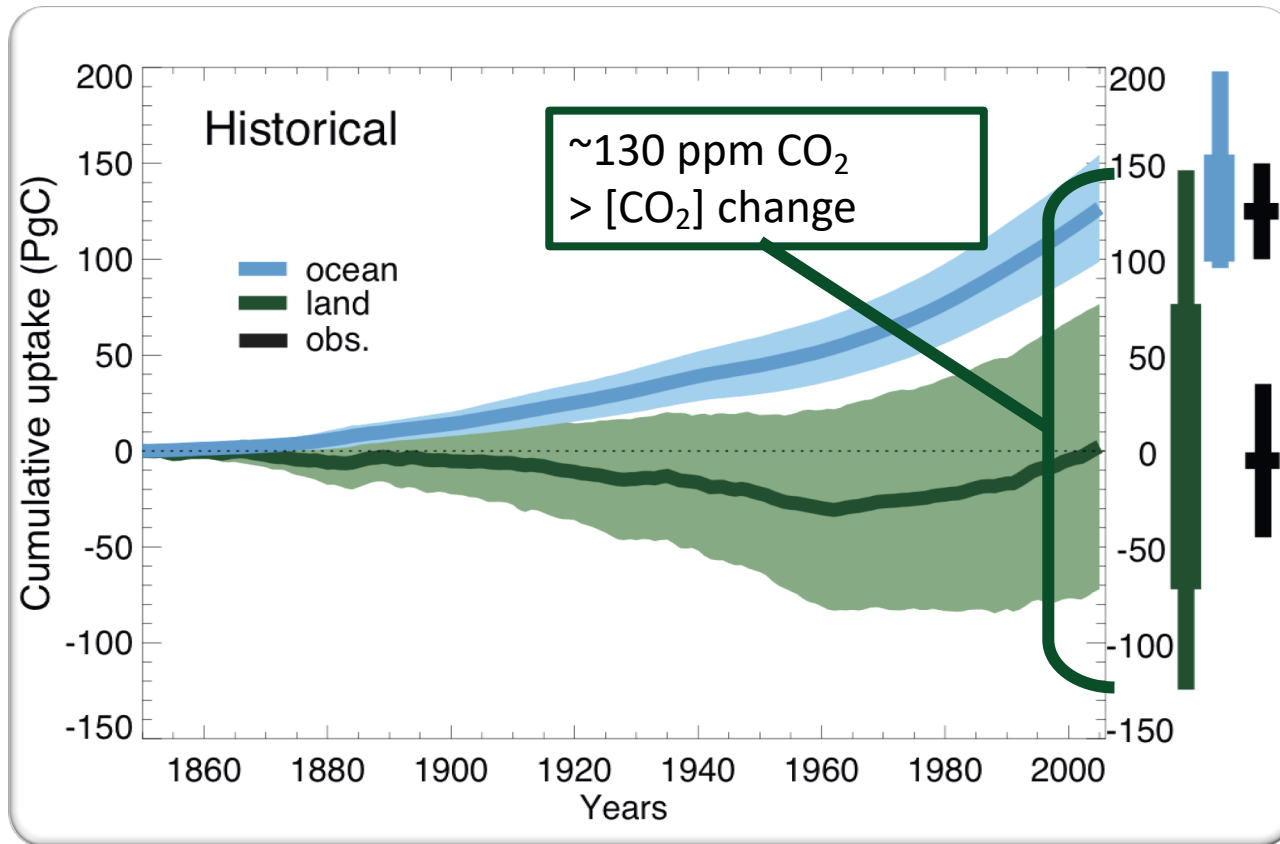
# Cumulative atmosphere-land CO<sub>2</sub> flux (Pg C)

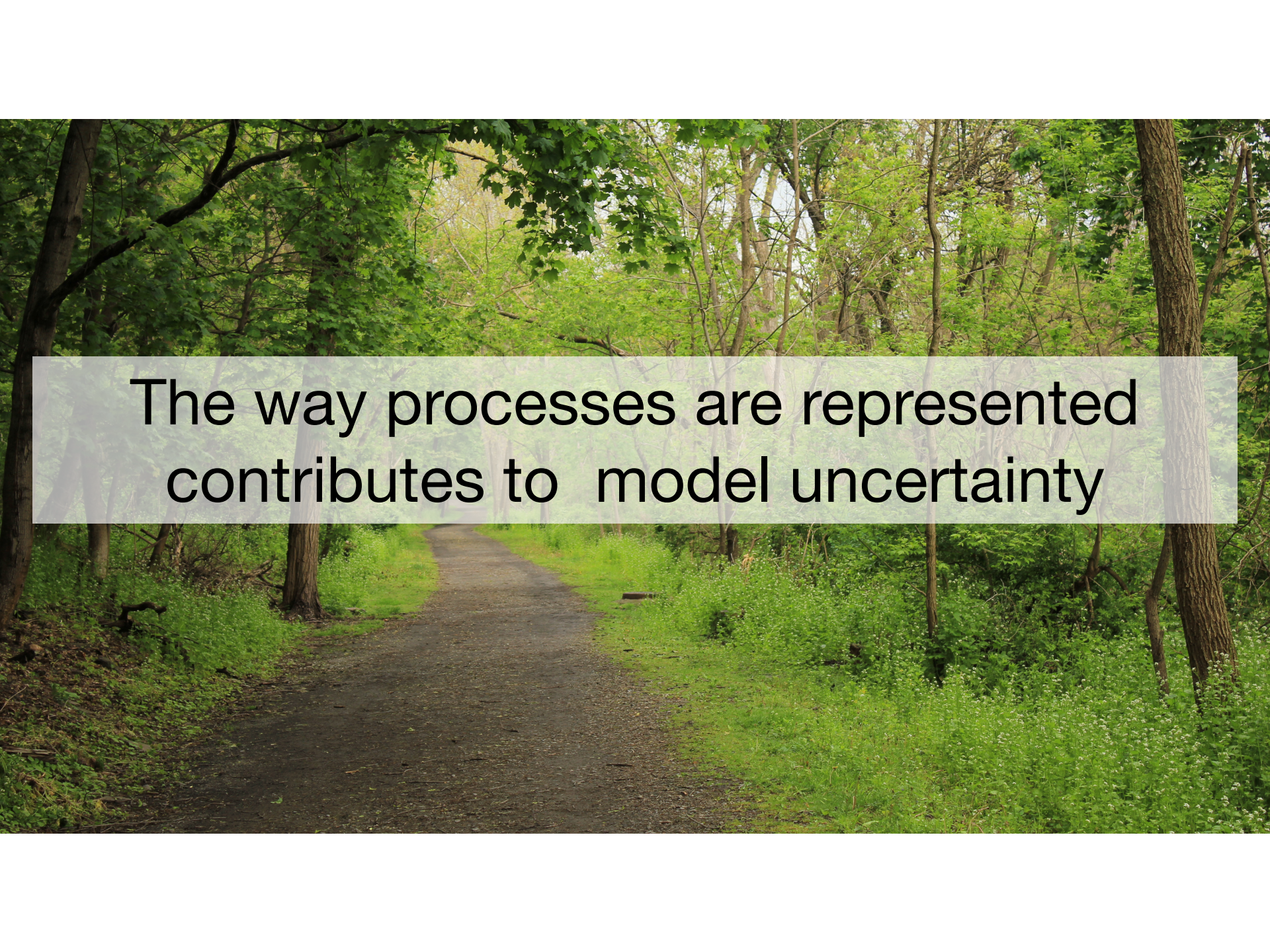


*Arora et al. 2013 J. Climate*



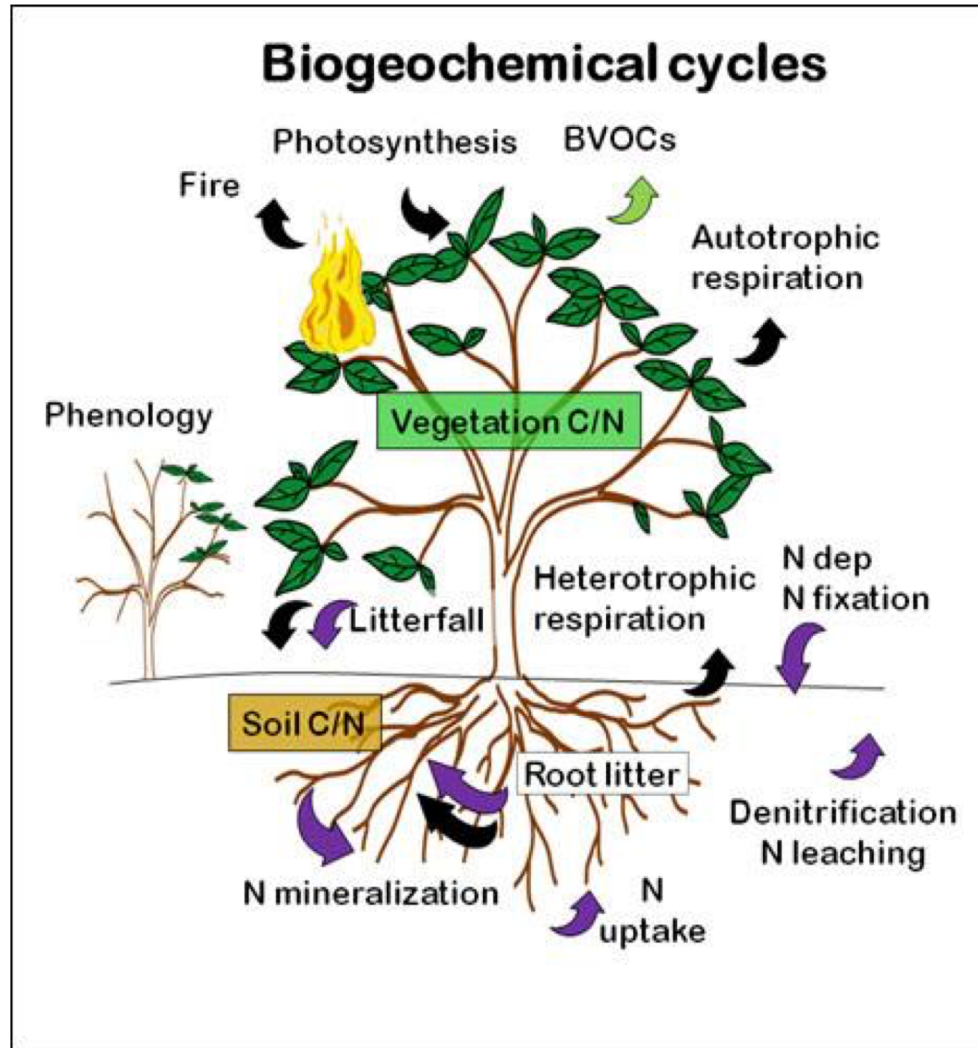
# Multi-model carbon cycle **uncertainty**



A photograph of a dirt path winding through a dense forest with vibrant green foliage. The path is in the foreground, leading into the distance. The trees are tall and thin, with a thick canopy of leaves. The overall scene is bright and natural.

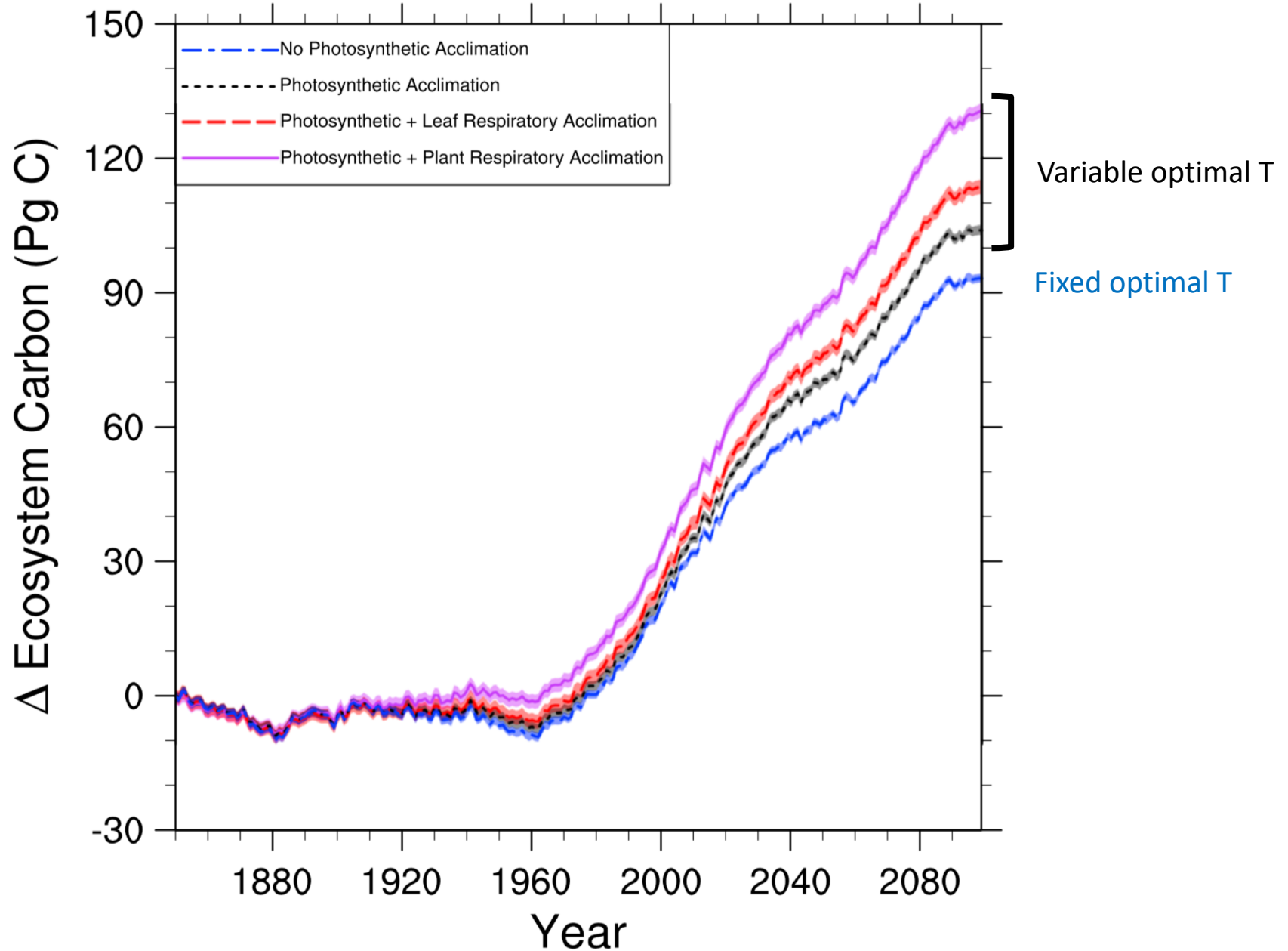
The way processes are represented  
contributes to model uncertainty

# Primary components of CLM's biogeochemistry model





# Changing photosynthesis and respiration responses to temperature



# Stop what you are doing and become a biogeochemist

- “Allowable emissions” to get to 1.5, 2, 4 degrees of warming are all heavily contingent on carbon-cycle feedbacks.
- Terrestrial carbon-cycle feedbacks are among the largest uncertainties in ESMs
- Nutrients are an important constraint on C uptake, though parameterizations are uncertain and need to be evaluated



## 2. Vegetation C Dynamics

# Terrestrial C and N Pools

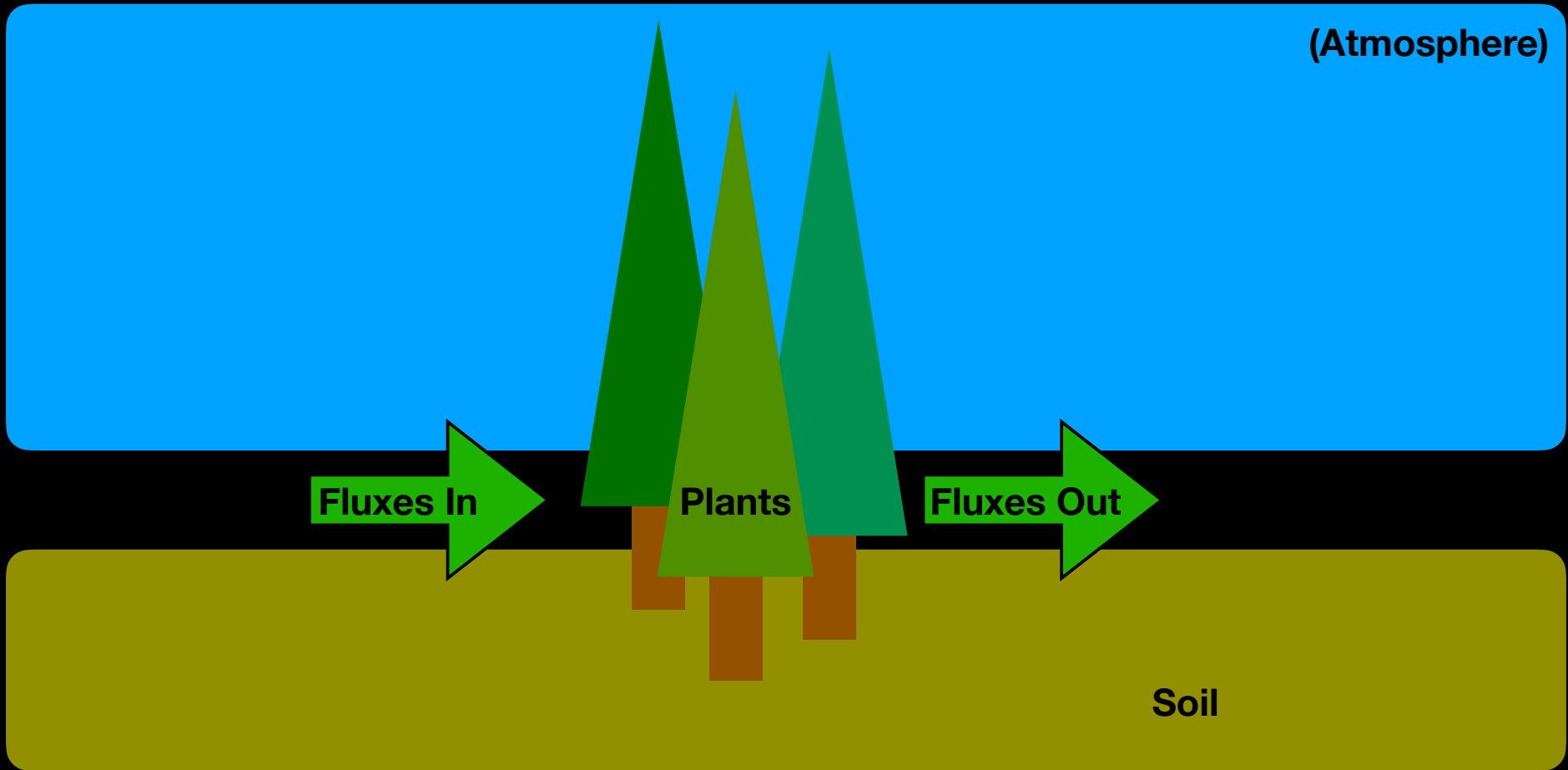
(Atmosphere)

Fluxes In

Plants

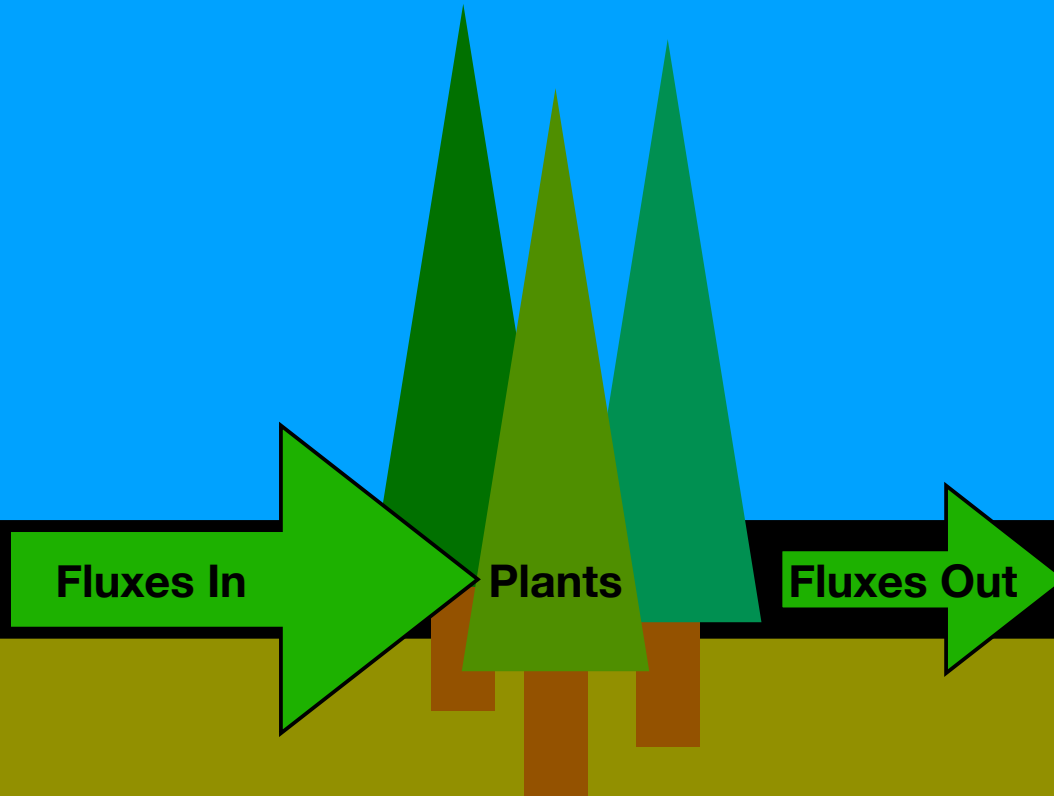
Fluxes Out

Soil



# Terrestrial C and N Pools

(Atmosphere)



Fluxes In

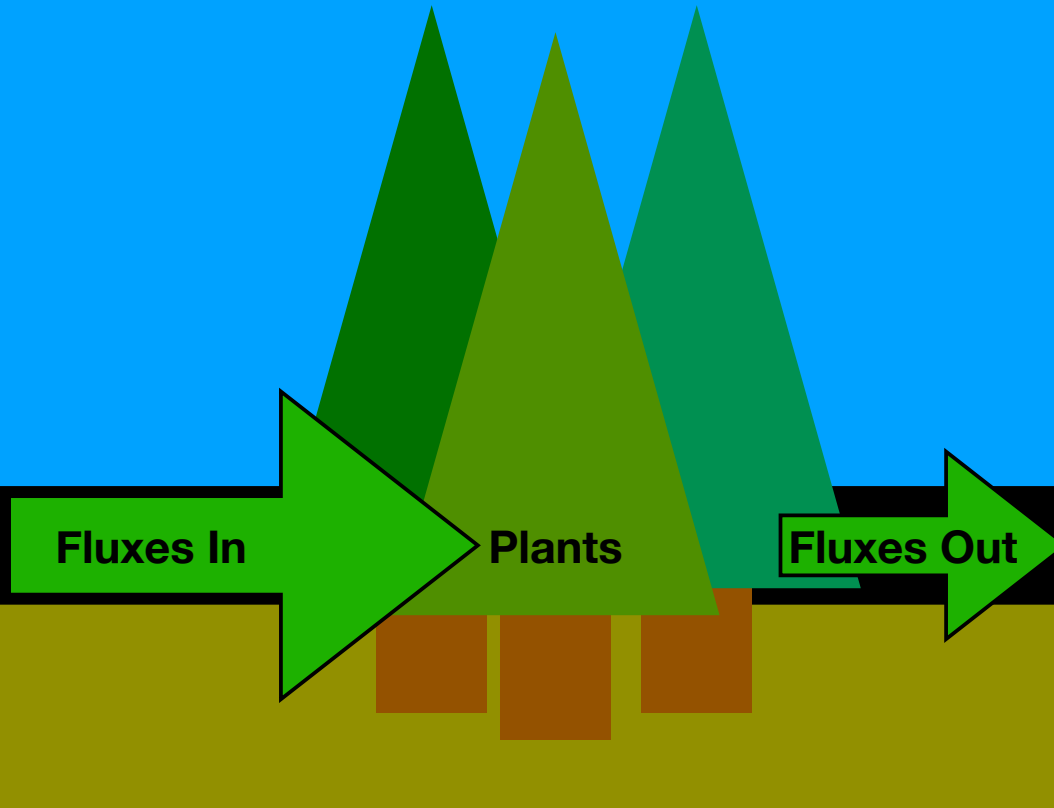
Plants

Fluxes Out

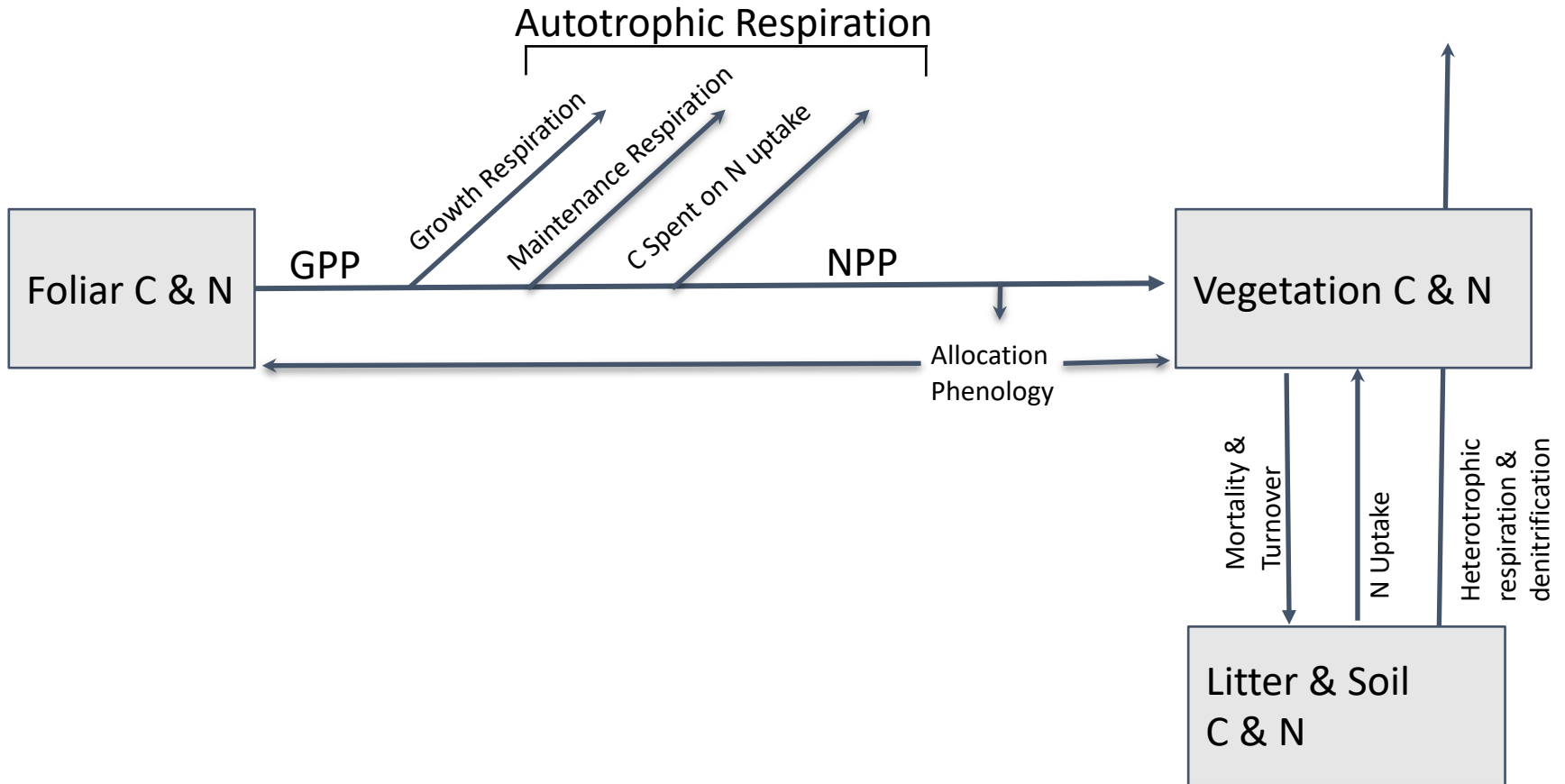
Soil

# Terrestrial C and N Pools

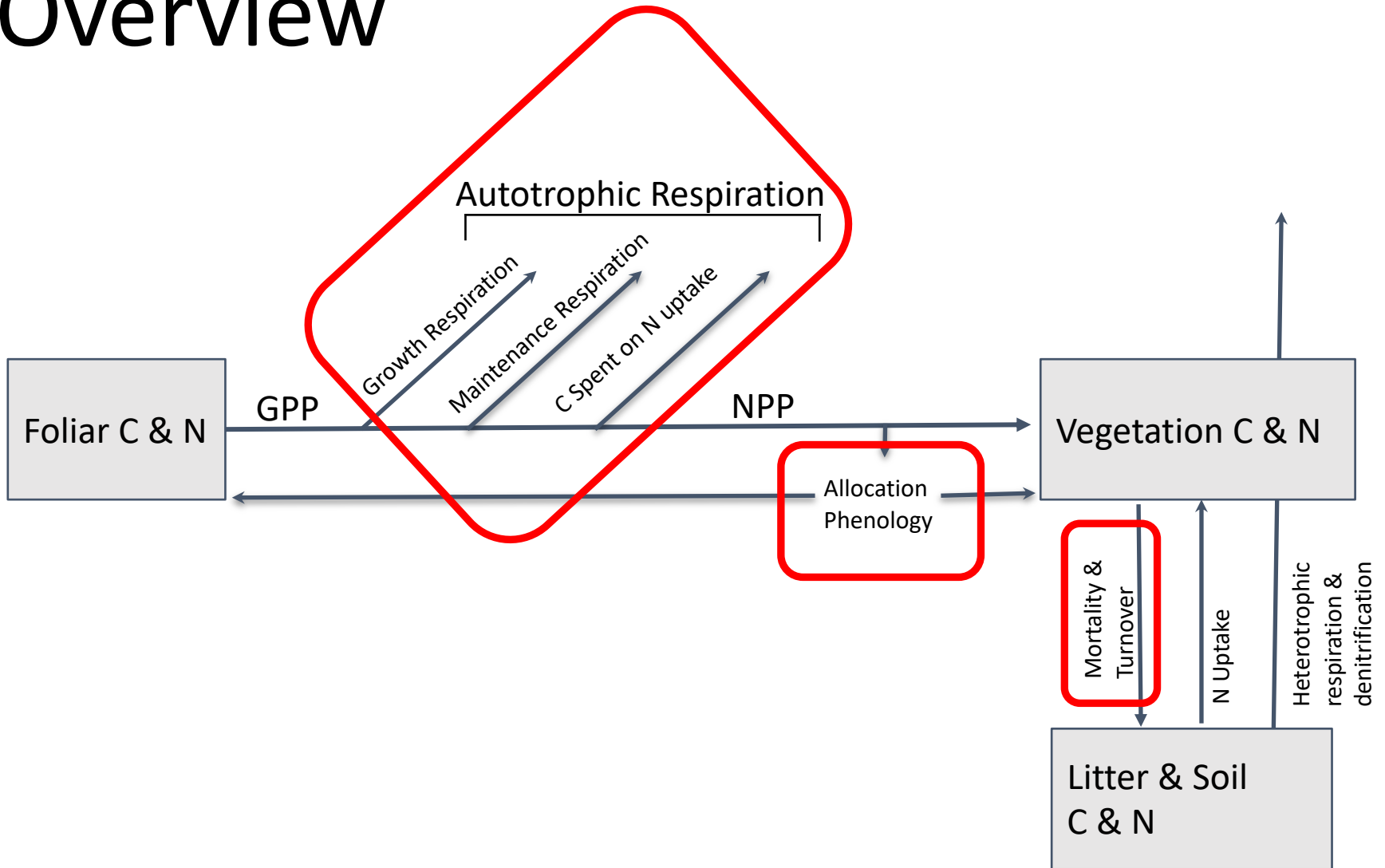
(Atmosphere)



# Overview

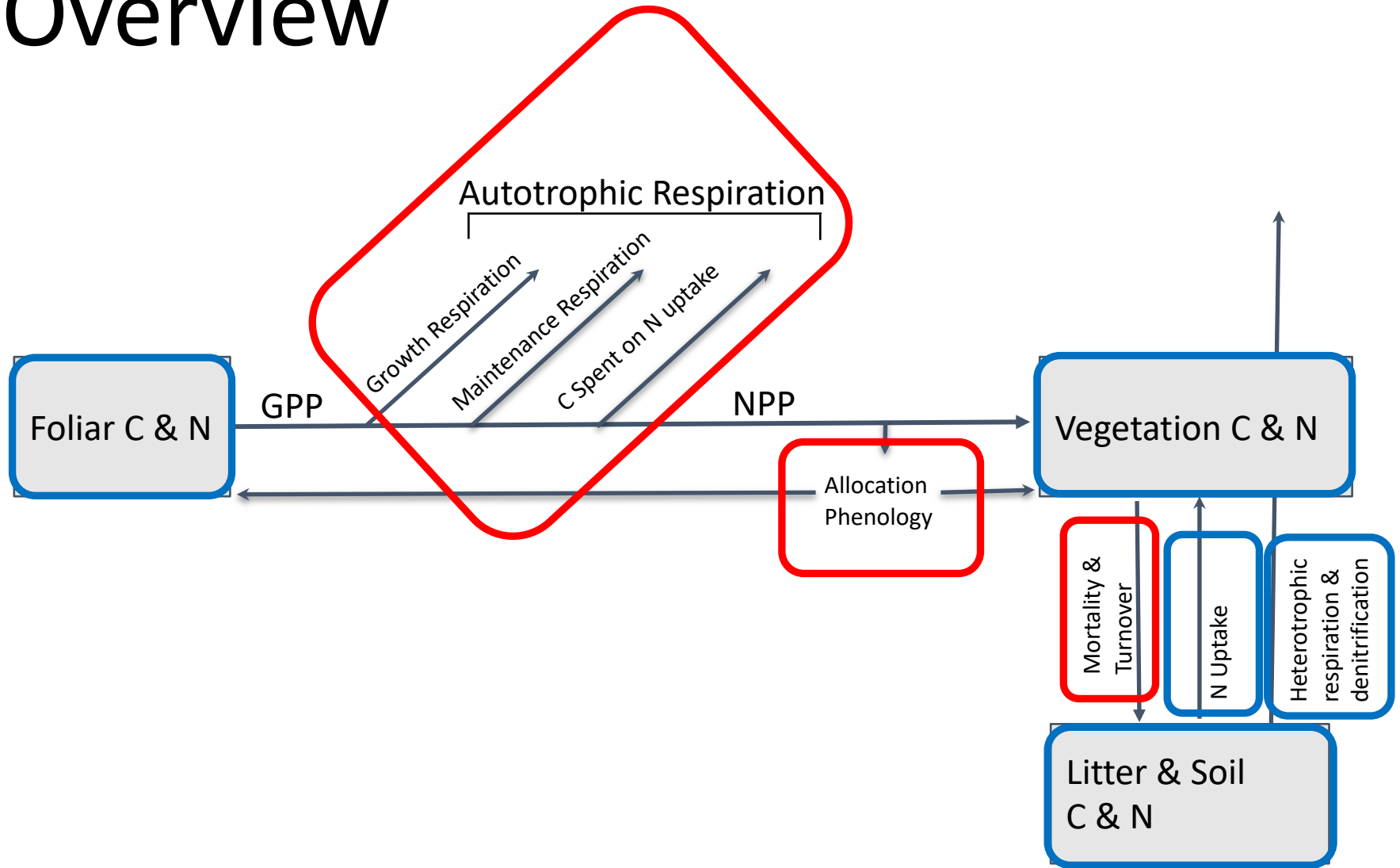


# Overview

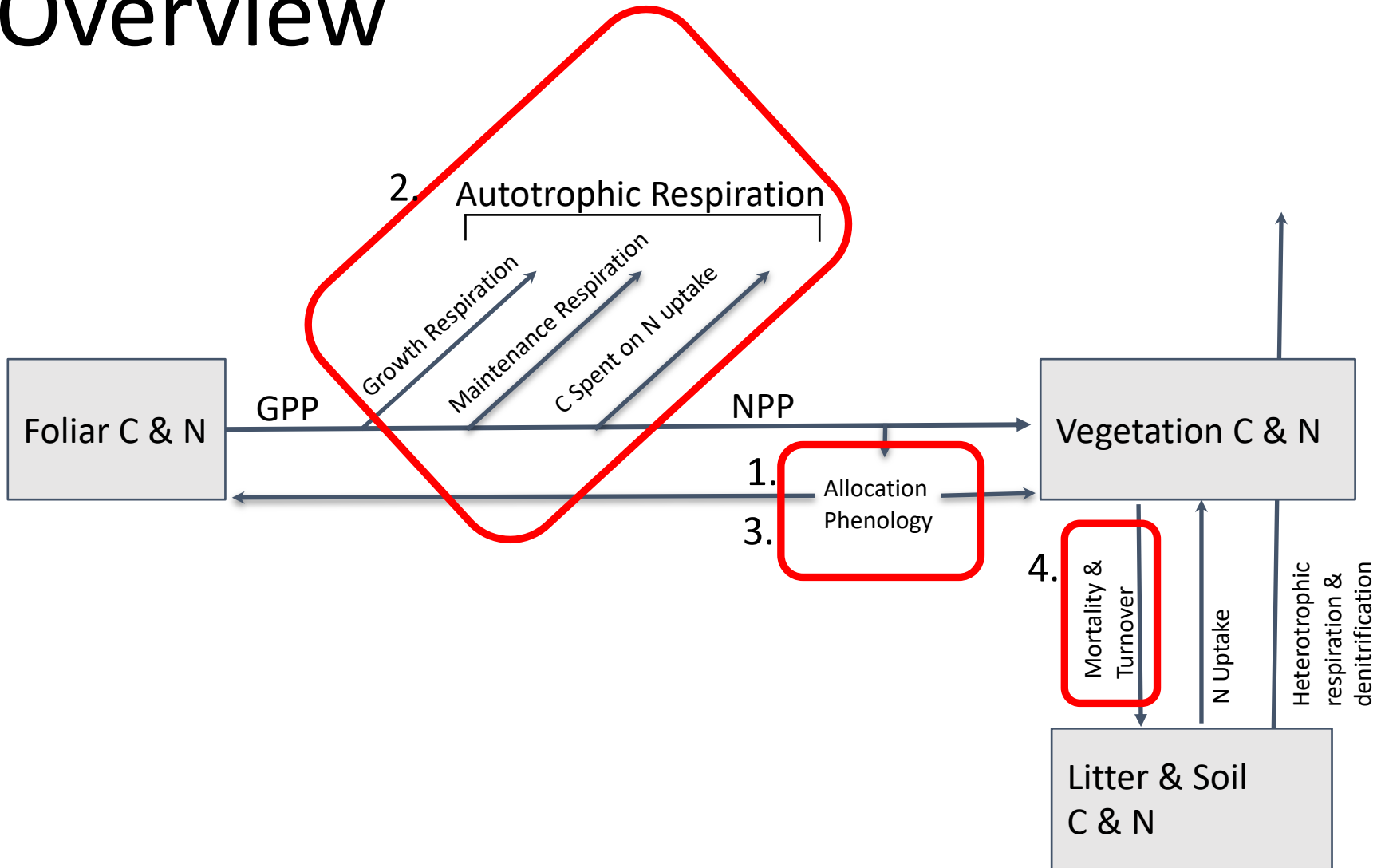




# Overview



# Overview



- 
1. Allocation
  2. Autotrophic Respiration
  3. Phenology
  4. Mortality & Turnover

# Why does allocation matter?

- Allocation determines **resource acquisition**
  - Leaf C -> LAI -> photosynthesis (in CLM)
  - Wood C -> taller plant -> photosynthesis (in FATES)
  - Root C -> more surface area for nutrient and water uptake -> more resources to grow (in FUN)
  - Nutrient uptake respiration -> more N uptake -> more resources to grow (in FUN)

# Why does allocation matter?

- Allocation determines the **residence time of vegetation C**
  - More wood -> lower turnover rates
- Allocation influences the **plant demand for nitrogen**
  - More wood -> less nitrogen demand per unit of carbon -> less N limitation -> increased C uptake

# Why does allocation matter?

- Allocation determines the **wood products**
  - More wood -> more carbon in the wood product pools -> less carbon in soil and atmosphere
- Allocation determines the **fuel for fire**
  - More aboveground carbon -> more fuel for fire
- Allocation determines **albedo**
  - More leaf C -> more LAI -> lower albedo
  - More stem C -> More SAI -> lower albedo (if wood albedo < soil/snow)

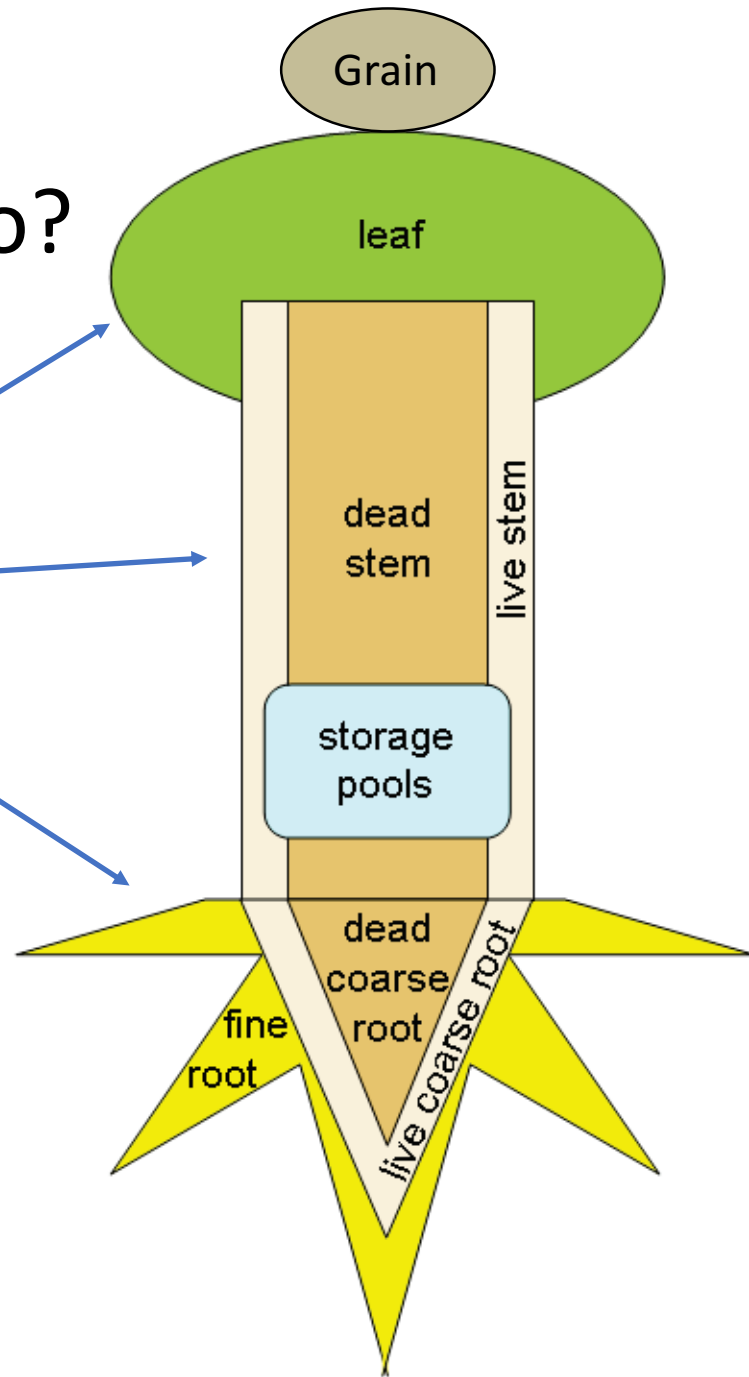
# Why does allocation matter?

- Allocation influences **canopy conductance**
  - More leaf C -> More LAI -> canopy conductance
- Allocation influences **aerodynamic conductance**
  - More stem C -> taller plants -> increased roughness length -> increased aerodynamic conductance

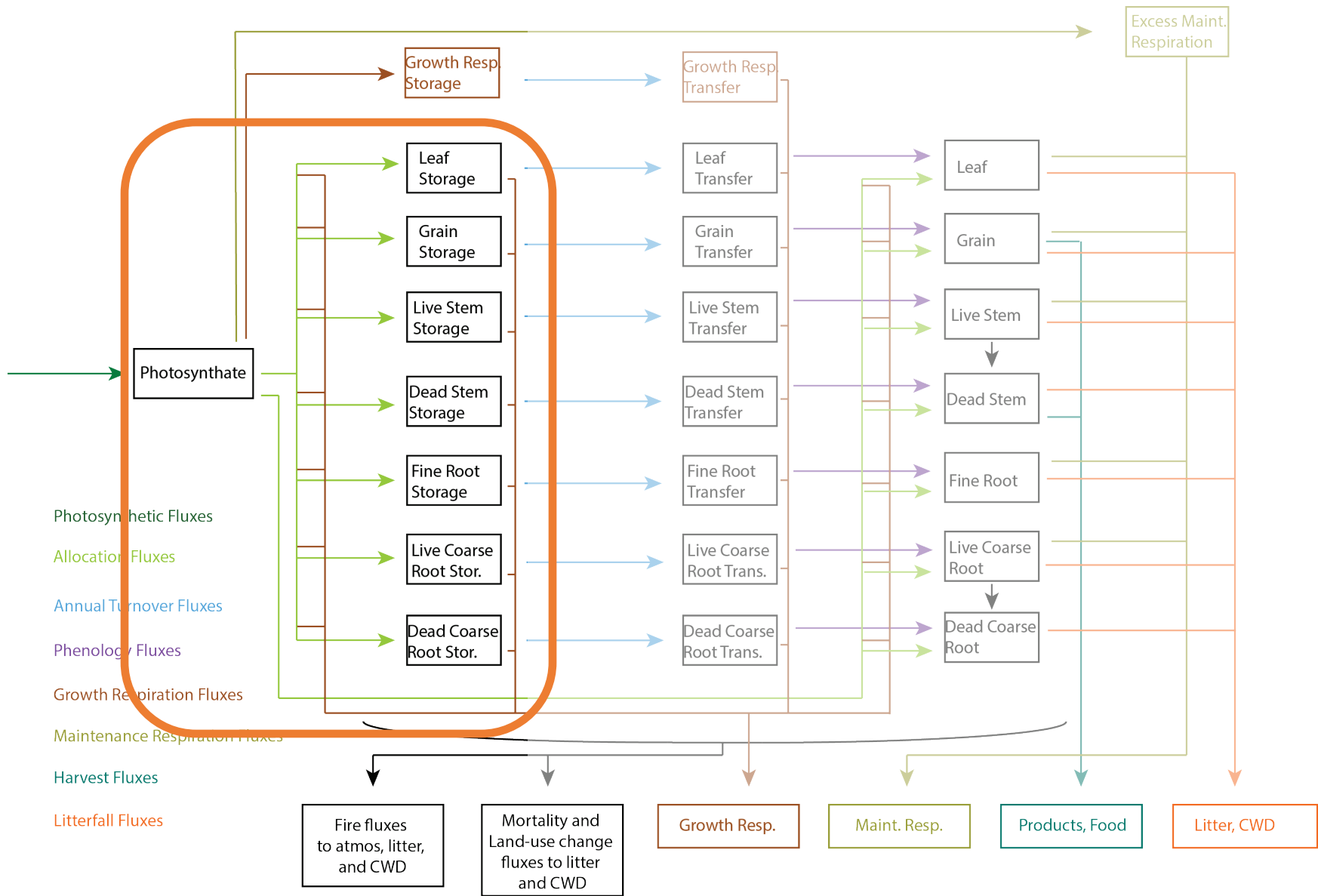
# Allocation

Where does new C go?

Photosynthate C







# Allocation Steps

Fraction of allocatable carbon to specific pool (uses ratios)

f1 = fine root: leaf

f2 = coarse root : stem

f3 = stem : leaf

f4 = live wood : total wood

f5 = grain : leaf

g1 = growth respiration: total allocation

Note that the values of these ratios vary by PFT and are defined in the parameter file

total = leaf +

leaf\*f1 + ( \_\_\_\_\_ )

leaf\*f3\*f4 + ( \_\_\_\_\_ )

leaf\*f3\*f2\*f4 + ( \_\_\_\_\_ )

leaf\*f3\*(1-f4) + ( \_\_\_\_\_ )

leaf\*f3\*f2\*(1-f4) + ( \_\_\_\_\_ )

leaf\*f5 ( \_\_\_\_\_ )

growth respiration = total\*g1

# Allocation Steps

Fraction of allocatable carbon to specific pool (uses ratios)

f1 = fine root: leaf

f2 = coarse root : stem

f3 = stem : leaf

f4 = live wood : total wood

f5 = grain : leaf

g1 = growth respiration: total allocation

Note that the values of these ratios vary by PFT and are defined in the parameter file

total = leaf +

leaf\*f1 +

( fine roots )

leaf\*f3\*f4 +

( stem live wood )

leaf\*f3\*f2\*f4 +

( coarse wood live wood )

leaf\*f3\*(1-f4) +

( stem dead wood )

leaf\*f3\*f2\*(1-f4) +

( coarse wood dead wood )

leaf\*f5

( grain )

growth respiration = total\*g1

How do you expect allocation to differ in these PFTs?

**Evergreen needleleaf tree**

**Deciduous tree**

**Shrub**

**C4 grass**

**C3 grass**

**Wheat**

**Corn**

f1 = fine root: leaf

f2 = coarse root : stem

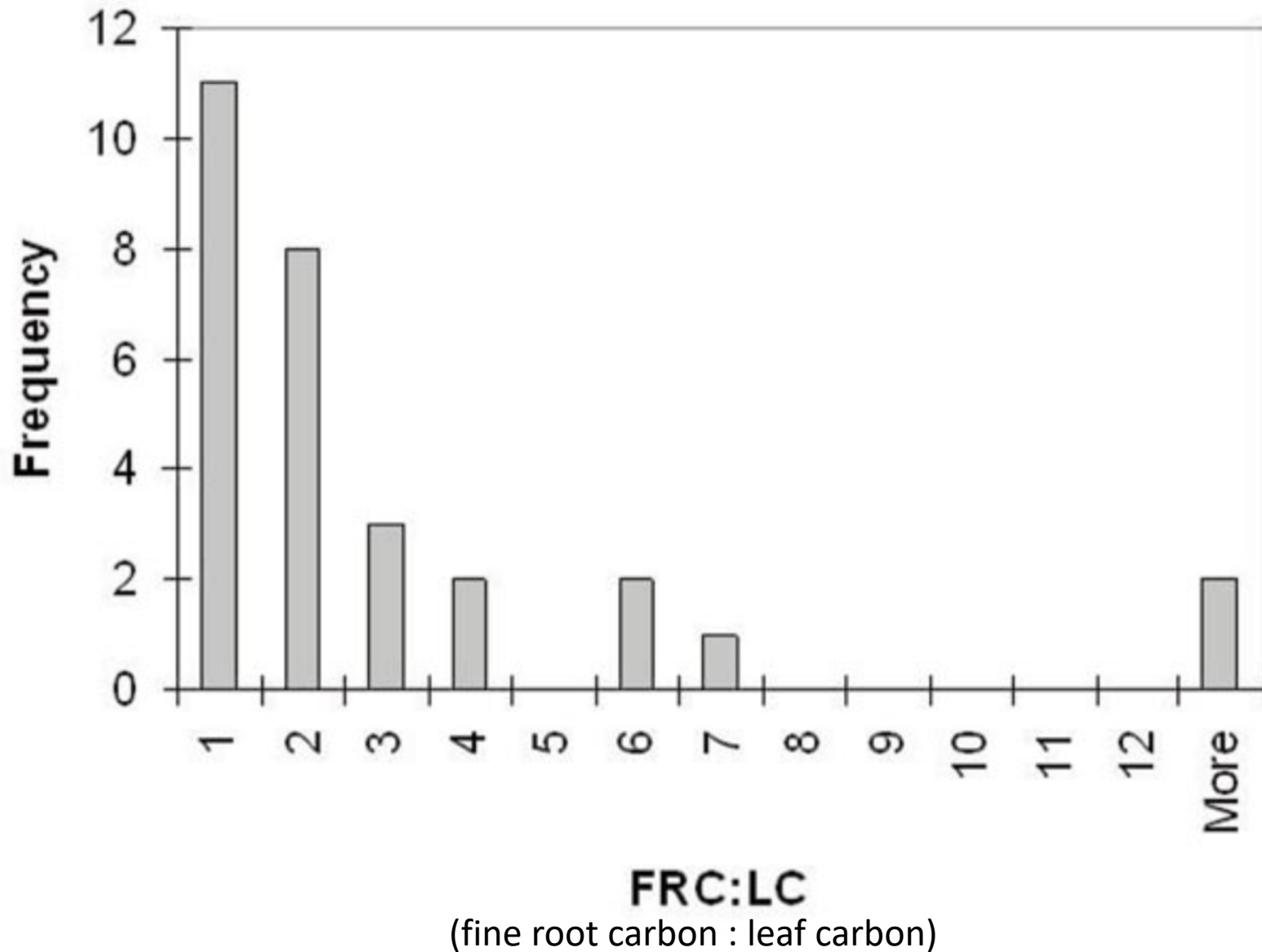
f3 = stem : leaf

f4 = live wood : total wood

f5 = grain : leaf

g1 = growth respiration: total allocation

# What might control this variation?

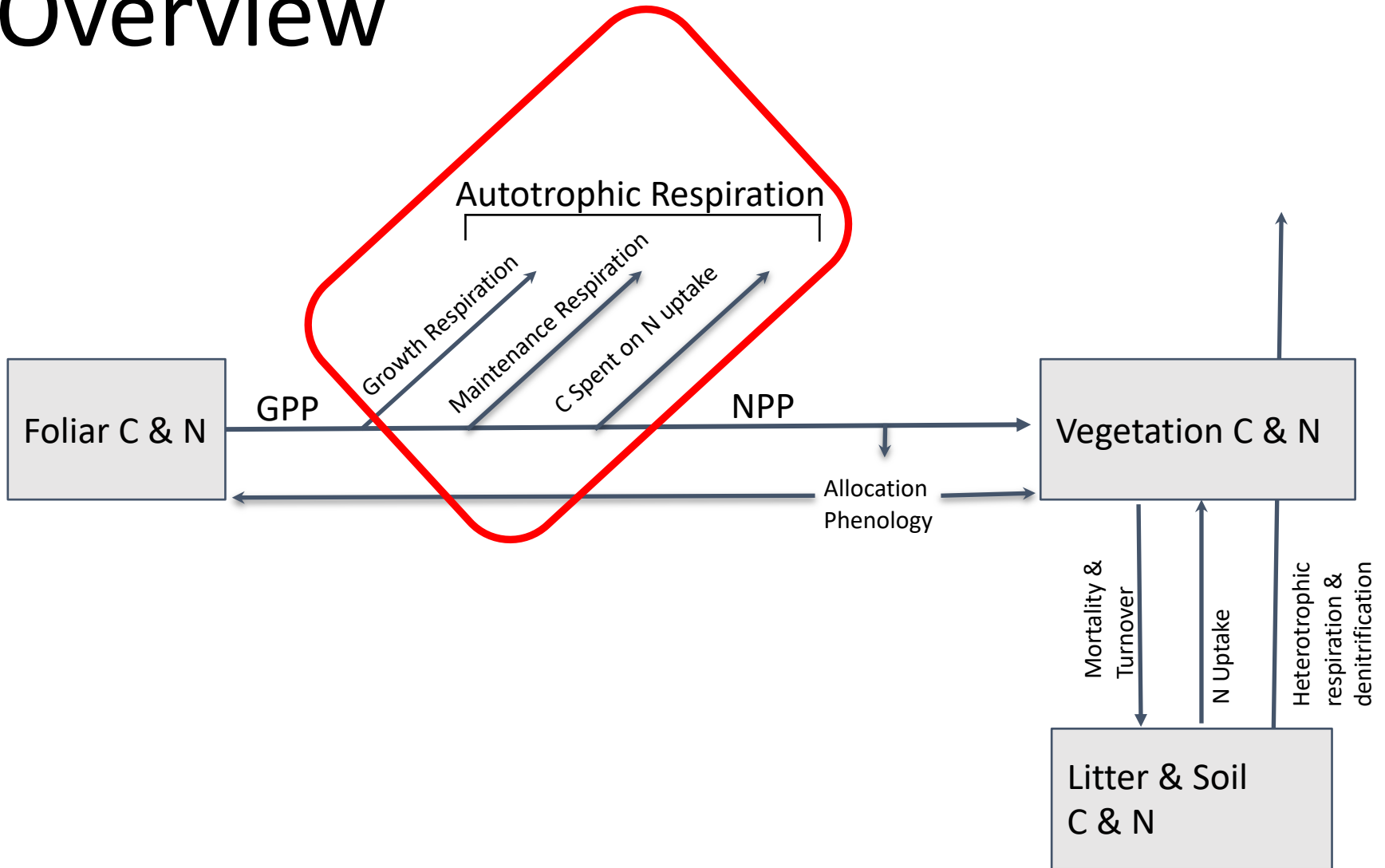


# What might control this variation?

- Changes in allocation through succession
- Differences in allocation among species
- Differences in allocation between soil environments (water and nutrient availability)
- Differences in allocation across broad climate space (boreal to tropics)

- 
1. Allocation
  2. **Autotrophic Respiration**
  3. Phenology
  4. Mortality & Turnover

# Overview





# Autotrophic Respiration ( $R_a$ )

$$R_a = R_{\text{growth}} + R_{\text{maintenance}} + R_{\text{FUN}}$$

# Autotrophic Respiration ( $R_a$ )

$$R_a = R_{\text{growth}} + R_{\text{maintenance}} + R_{\text{FUN}}$$

# Growth respiration

Additional C cost of the synthesis of new growth

$$R_{\text{growth}}^* = \text{grperc}^* (\text{total C allocated to new growth})$$

Currently set to 0.11 in the CLM parameter file, but value is uncertain

# Growth Respiration

**Table 6.1** Concentration and carbon cost of major chemical constituents in a sedge leaf<sup>a</sup>

Component	Concentration (%)	Cost (mg C g <sup>-1</sup> product)	Total cost <sup>b</sup> (mg C g <sup>-1</sup> tissue)
Sugar	11.9	438	52
Nucleic acid	1.2	409	5
Polysaccharide	9.0	467	42
Cellulose	21.6	467	101
Hemicellulose	31.0	467	145
Amino acid	0.9	468	4
Protein	9.7	649	63
Tannin	4.8	767	37
Lignin	4.2	928	39
Lipid	5.7	1,212	69
Total cost			557

<sup>a</sup>Data from Chapin (1989)

<sup>b</sup>The four most expensive constituents account for 37% of the cost of synthesis but only 24% of the mass of the tissue. The total cost of production (557 mg C g<sup>-1</sup> tissue) is equivalent to 1.23 g carbohydrate per gram of tissue, with 20% of this being respired and 80% incorporated into biomass

# Autotrophic Respiration ( $R_a$ )

$$R_a = R_{\text{growth}} + R_{\text{maintenance}} + R_{\text{FUN}}$$

# Maintenance respiration (tissue\_mr)

Additional C cost to support metabolic activity of maintaining existing tissue

Total = leaf + fine root + live stem + live coarse root (+ grain)

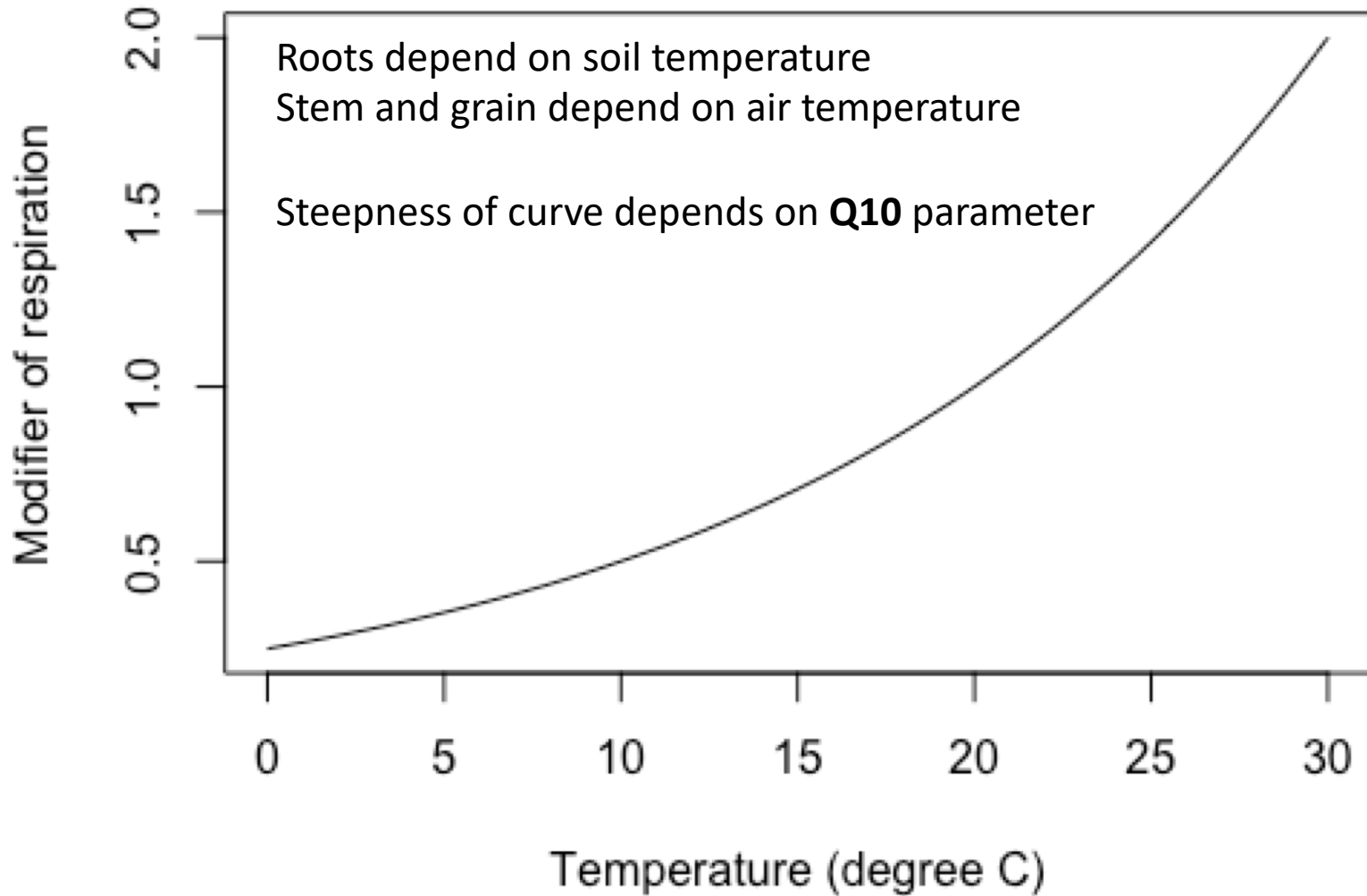
*(note that dead wood pools are not included)*

↑  
Only for crops

Respiration increases with nitrogen and temperature



# Climate sensitivity





# Maintenance respiration (tissue\_mr)

Additional C cost to support metabolic activity of maintaining existing tissue

Total = leaf + fine root + live stem + live coarse root (+ grain)

Respiration increases with nitrogen and temperature

# Leaf maintenance respiration ( $l_{mr25top}$ )

*Note that after  $l_{mr25top}$  is calculated, it is scaled for sunlit and shaded canopy fractions*

$$l_{mr\_intercept\_atkin} + (l_{nc} * 0.2061) - (0.0402 * t_{10})$$

↑  
PFT level parameter

↑  
Leaf N per leaf area

↑  
10 day running mean  
(Acclimation)

# Leaf maintenance respiration (**lmr25top**)

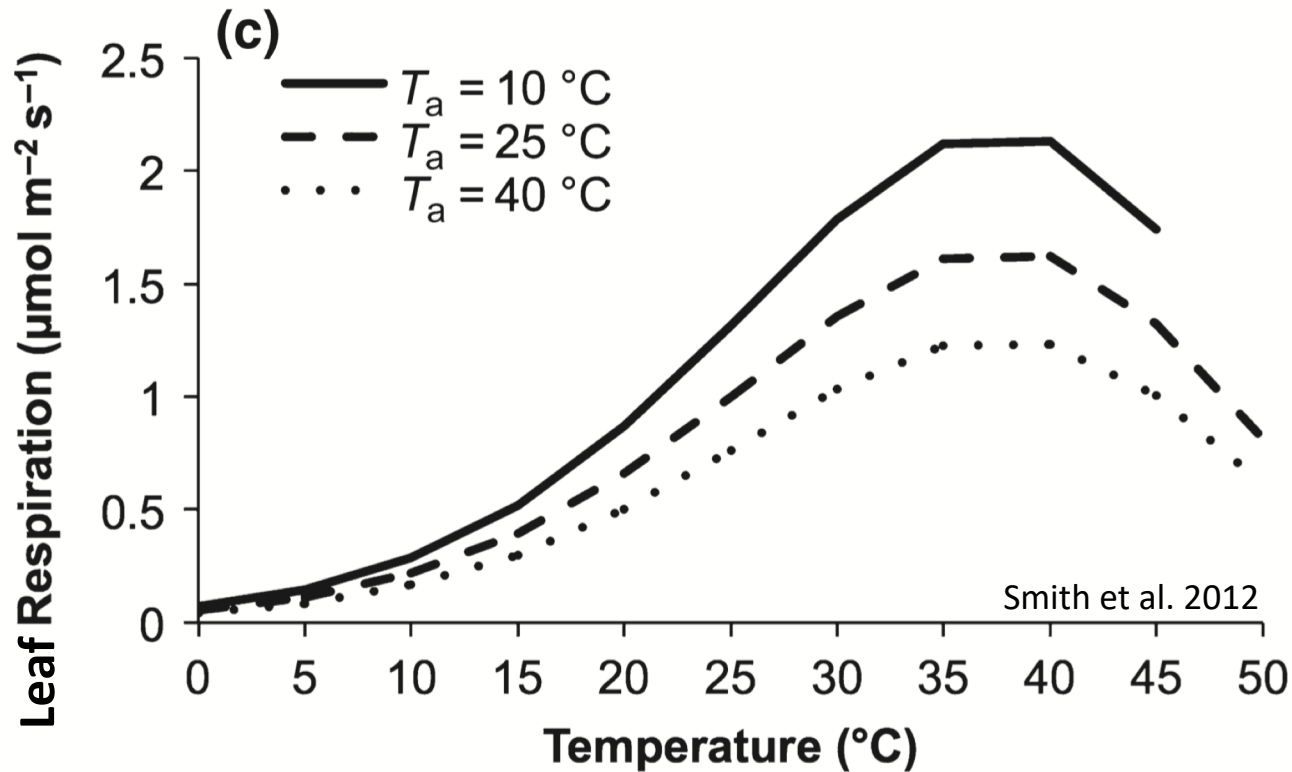
Note that after *lmr25top* is calculated, it is scaled for sunlit and shaded canopy fractions

$$\text{Imr\_intercept\_atkin} + (\text{Inc} * 0.2061) - (0.0402 * t10)$$

↑  
PFT level parameter

↑  
Leaf N per leaf area

↑  
10 day running mean  
(Acclimation)



# Autotrophic Respiration ( $R_a$ )

$$R_a = R_{\text{growth}} + R_{\text{maintenance}} + R_{\text{FUN}}$$

Respiration for nutrient acquisition  
(Fixation and Uptake of Nitrogen)

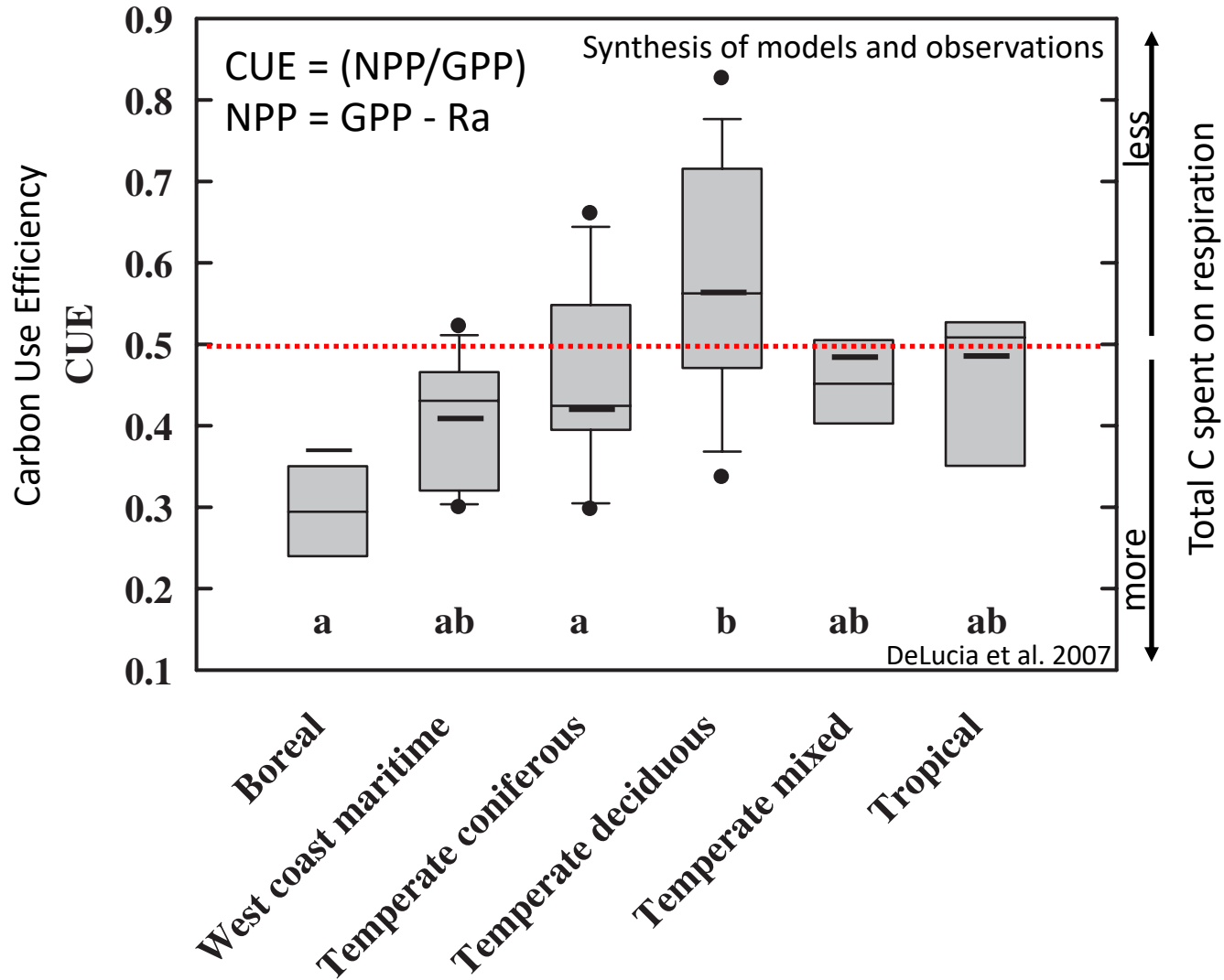
# Respiration for Nutrient Acquisition

Calculated in  
CNFUNMod.F90  
(see Will's talk)

No free lunch  
(if lunch is nitrogen)

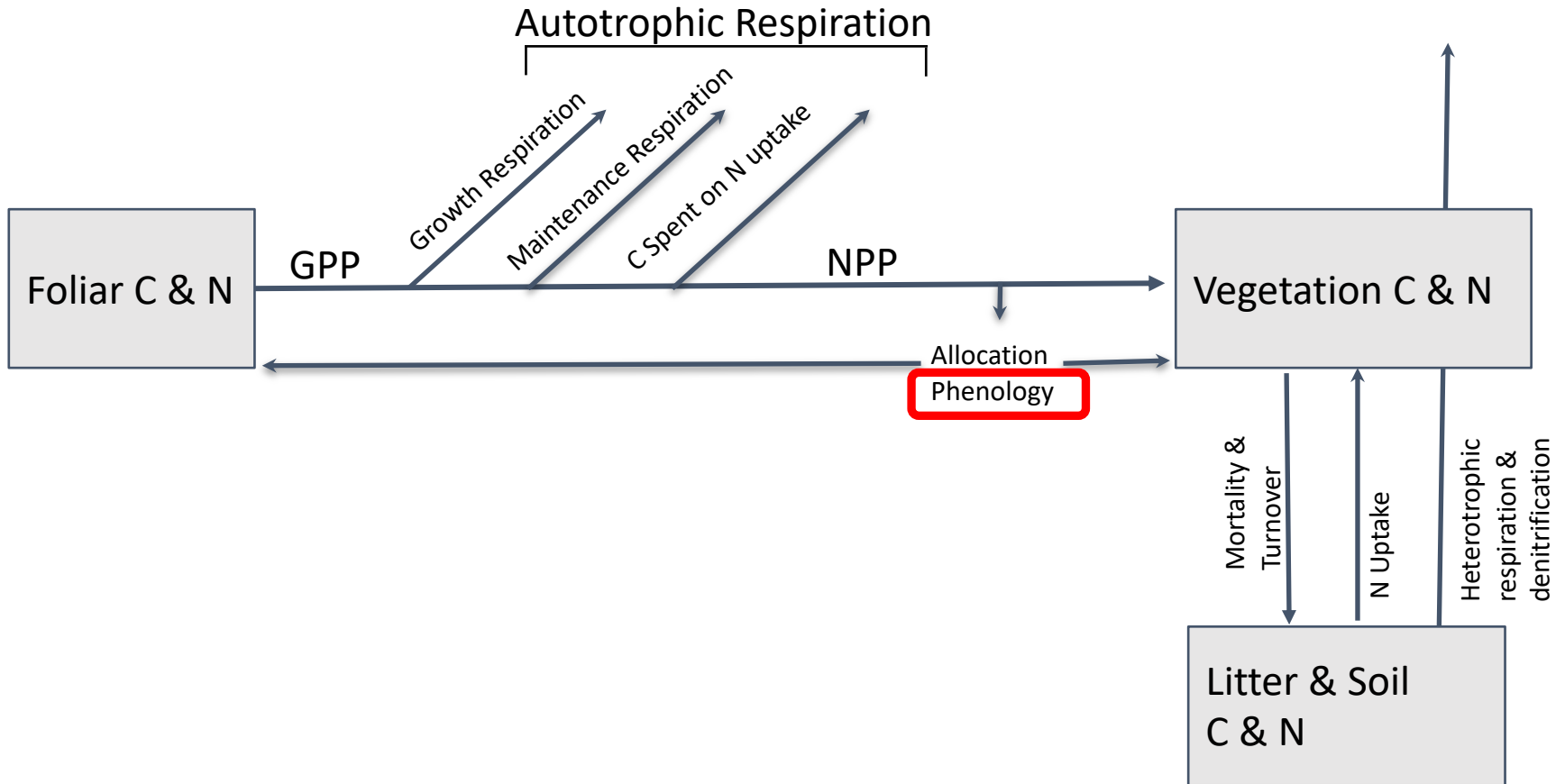


$$R_a = R_{\text{growth}} + R_{\text{maintenance}} + R_{\text{FUN}}$$



- 
1. Allocation
  2. Autotrophic Respiration
  3. Phenology
  4. Mortality & Turnover

# Overview





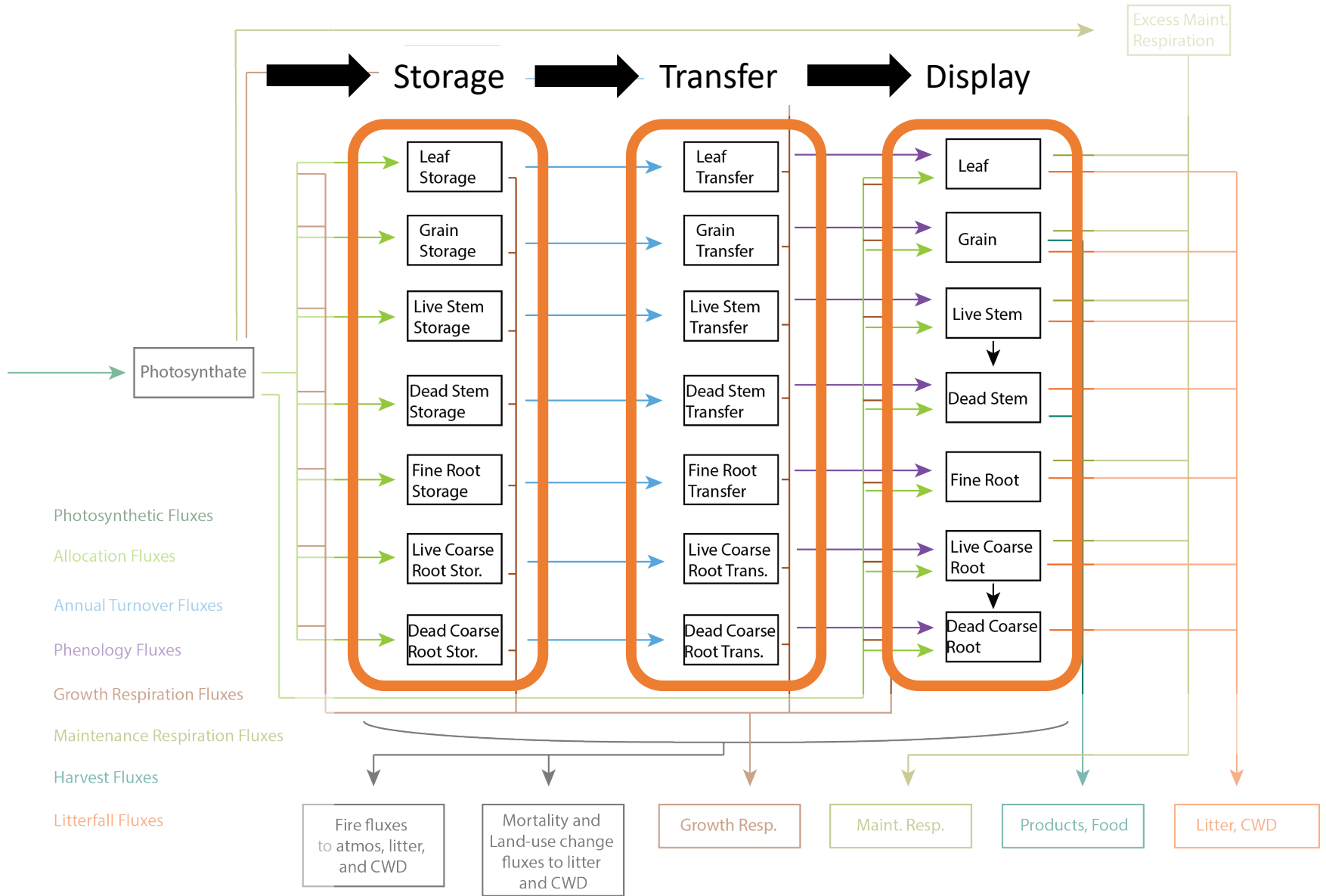
# Phenology

The cycling of seasonal biological events

Natural vegetation is separated into three phenological classes:

- Evergreen
- Seasonal deciduous
- Stress deciduous

In CLM, phenology is represented as the fluxes of C and N between storage pools and displayed pools, triggered by daylength, temperature, and/or soil moisture.



# Evergreen Phenology

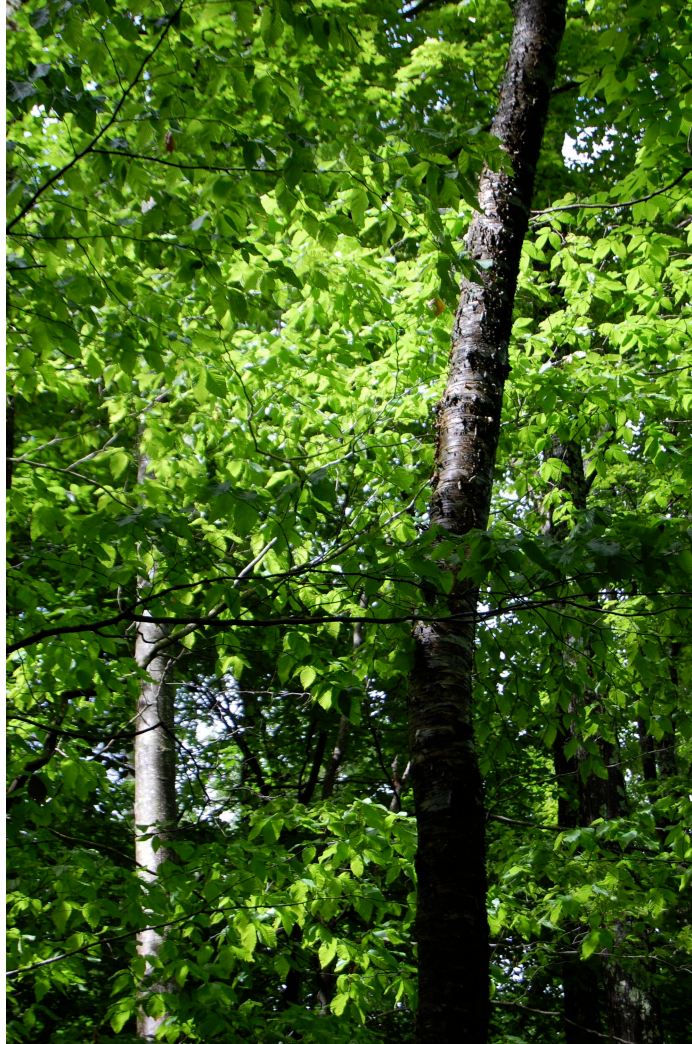
All C and N allocated for new growth goes immediately to the displayed growth pool

Leaf and fine root turnover occurs throughout year at background rates



PFT parameter **leaf\_long** determines leaf turnover rates

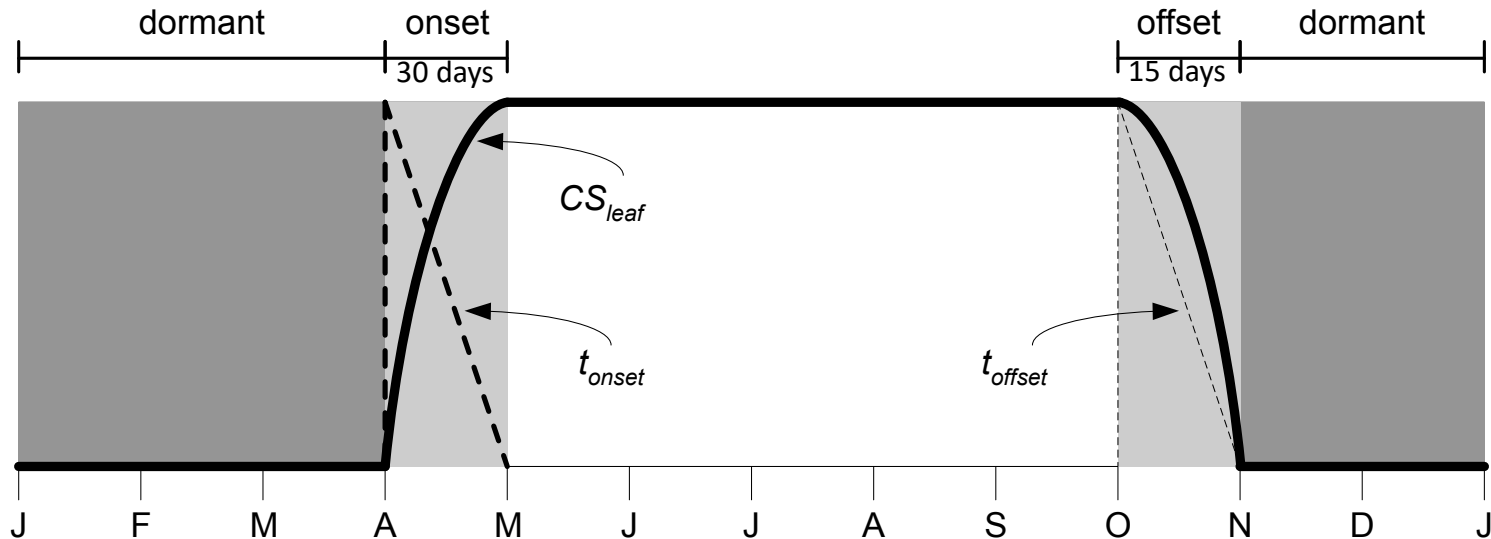
# Seasonal Deciduous



Leaf onset and senescence are triggered by temperature and light

# Seasonal Deciduous

Number of onset and offset days are parameters



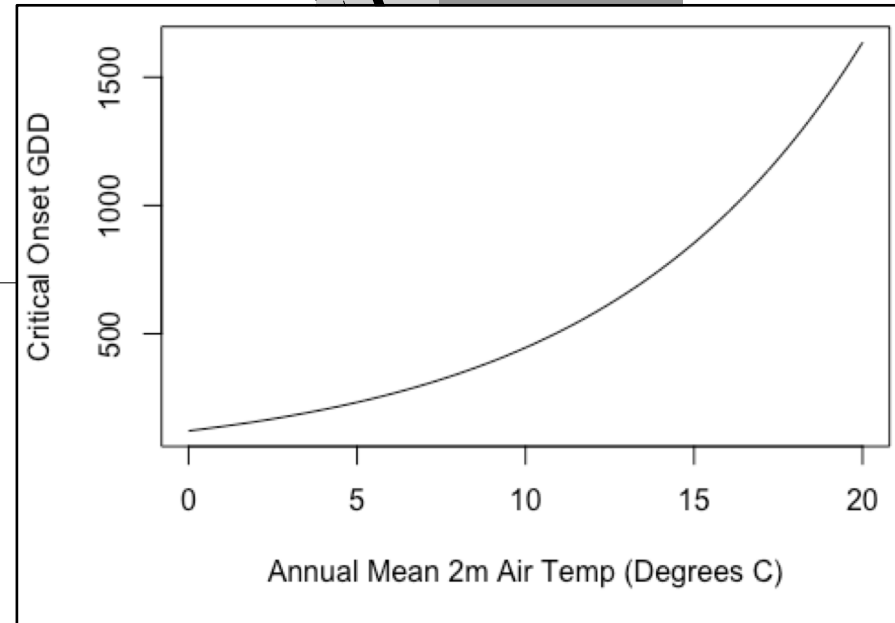
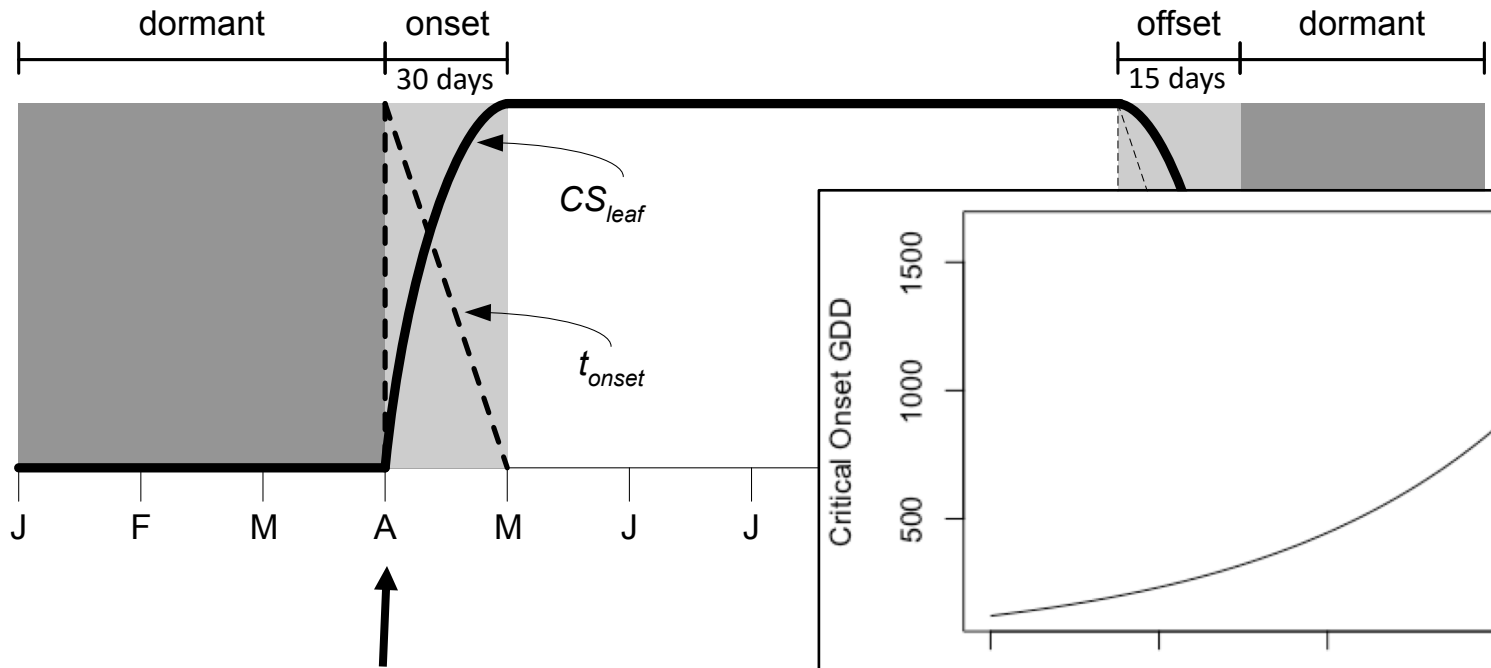
**Temperature driven**

Growing degree day > **crit\_onset\_gdd**

Growing degree = sum of daily soil temperatures greater than zero

# Seasonal Deciduous

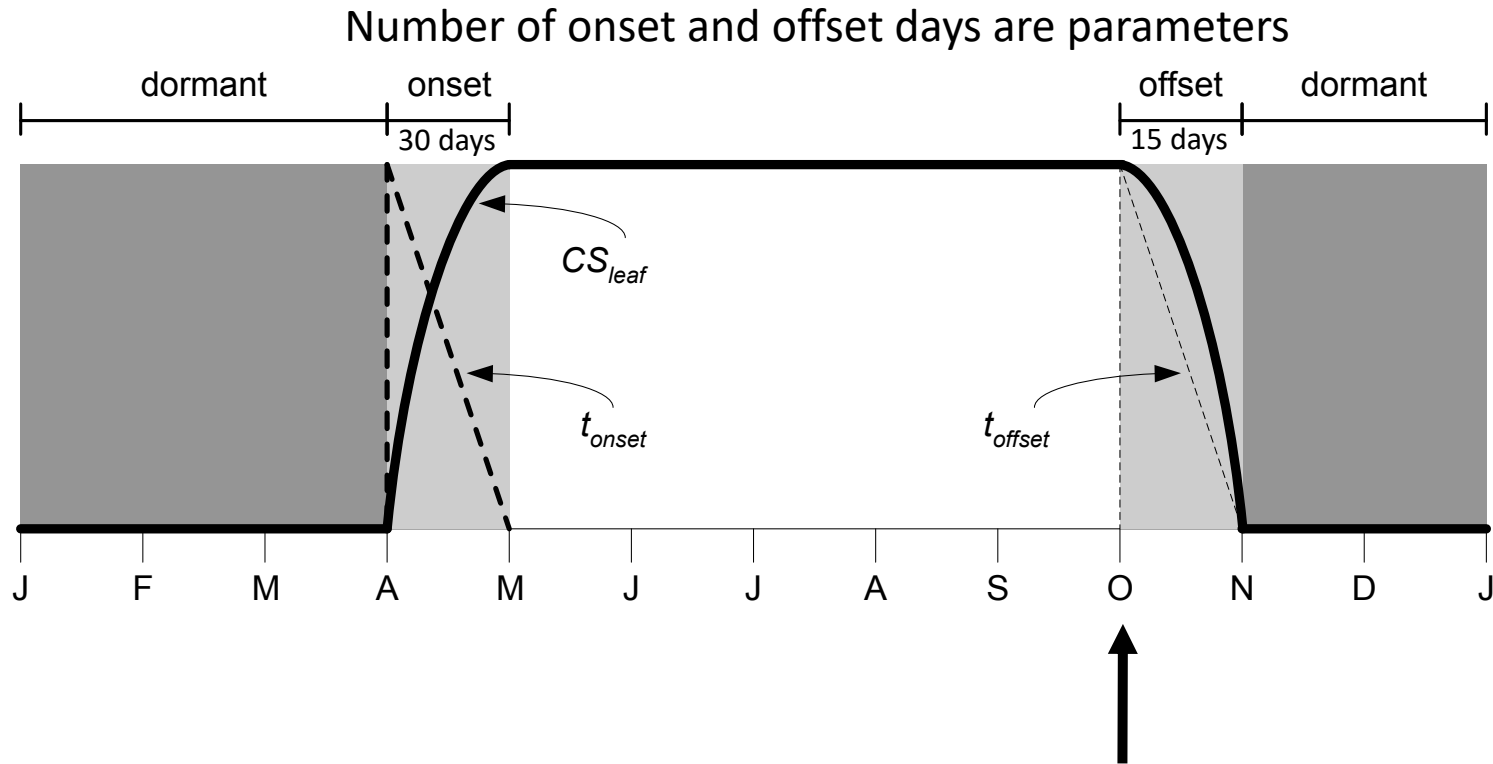
Number of onset and offset days are parameters



Growing degree day > **crit\_onset\_gdd**

Warmer locations require more GDD to start growing leaves

# Seasonal Deciduous



**Day length driven**

Day length < **crit\_dayl**

**crit\_dayl** a parameter shared across PFTs

# Stress Deciduous

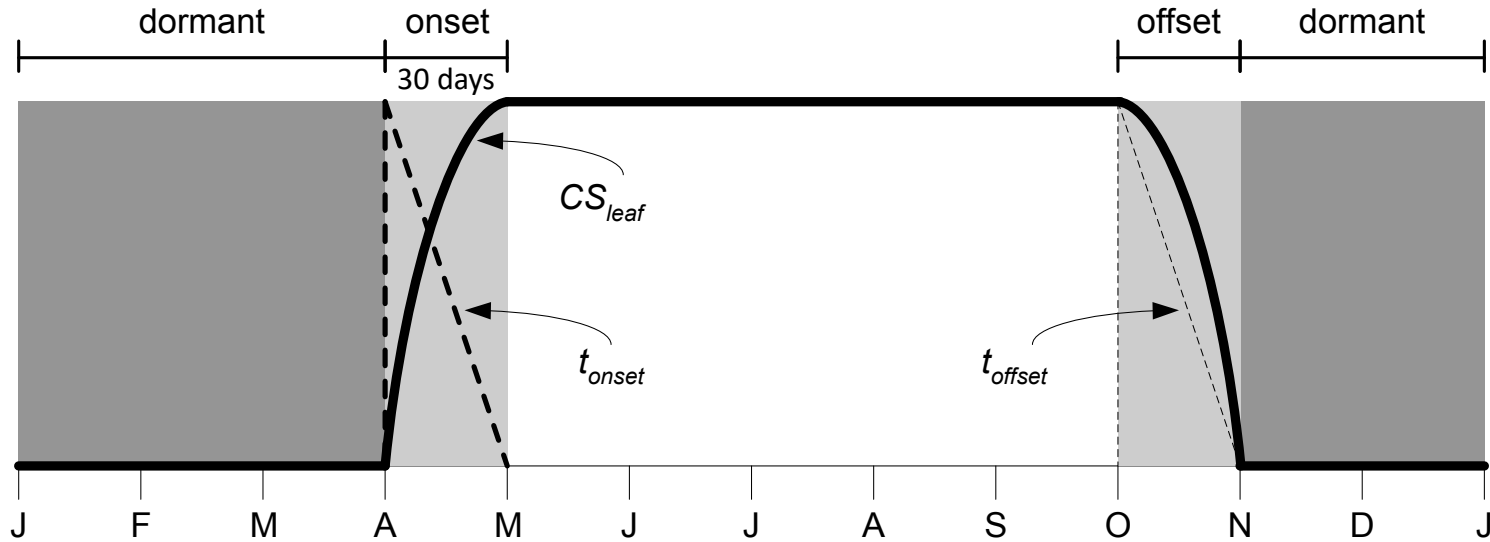


<https://sciencestruck.com/savanna-biome-facts>

Temperature and drought stress can cause multiple growing seasons per year

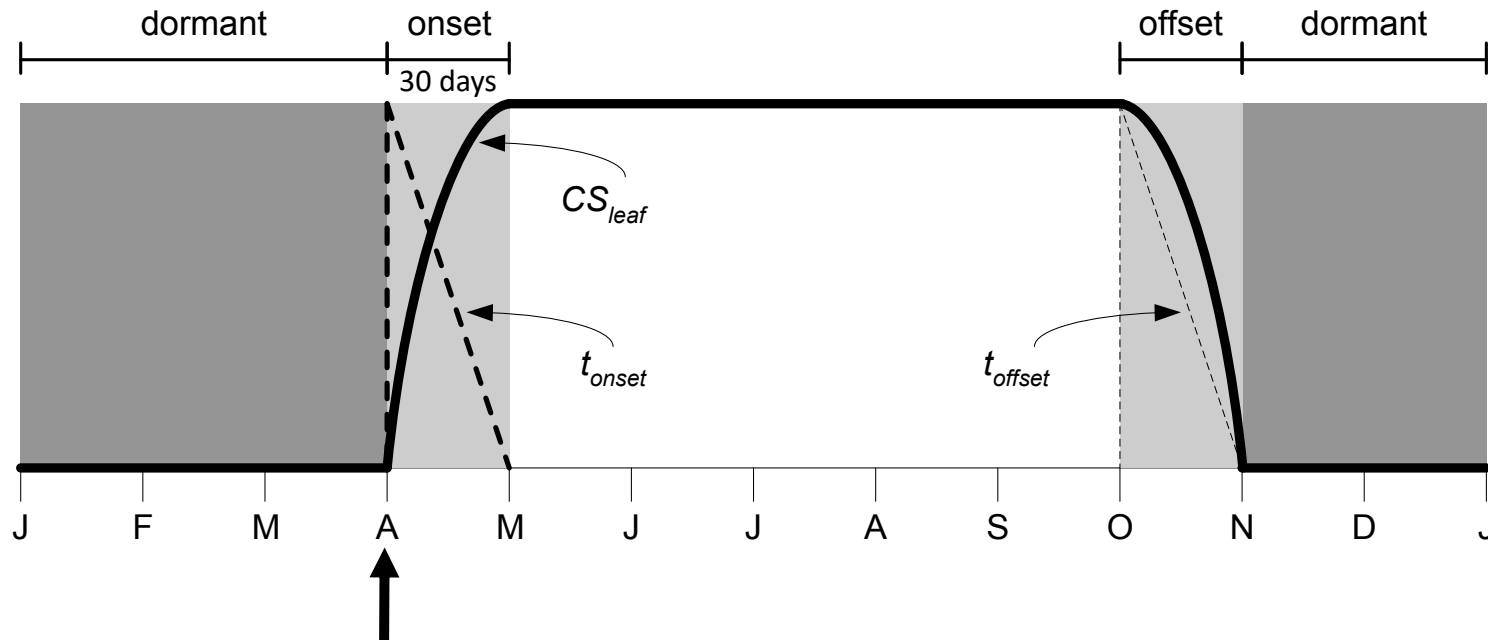


# Stress Deciduous



Soil water availability  
Temperature  
Precipitation  
Day length

# Stress Deciduous



**In warm climates**, onset occurs when # of days with soil water potential is above a specified value:

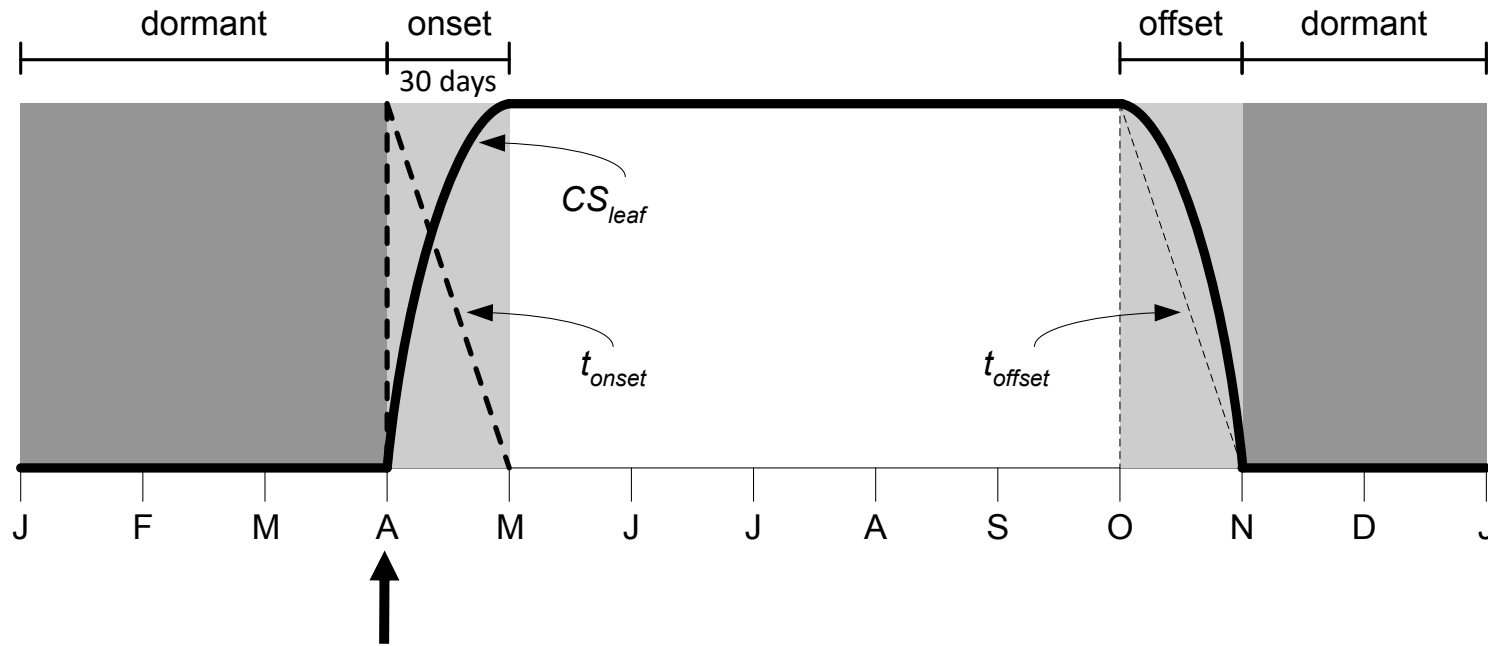
$$\text{soilpsi}_{on} > \text{crit}_{onset\_swi}$$

**Other requirements that must be met:**

**Precipitation:** 10 day precipitation > **rain\_threshold** (20 mm)

**Daylength:** daylight > 6h

# Stress Deciduous



In climates with a cold season, onset occurs when:  
# of freezing days > **crit\_onset\_fdd** (requirement for cold dominance)

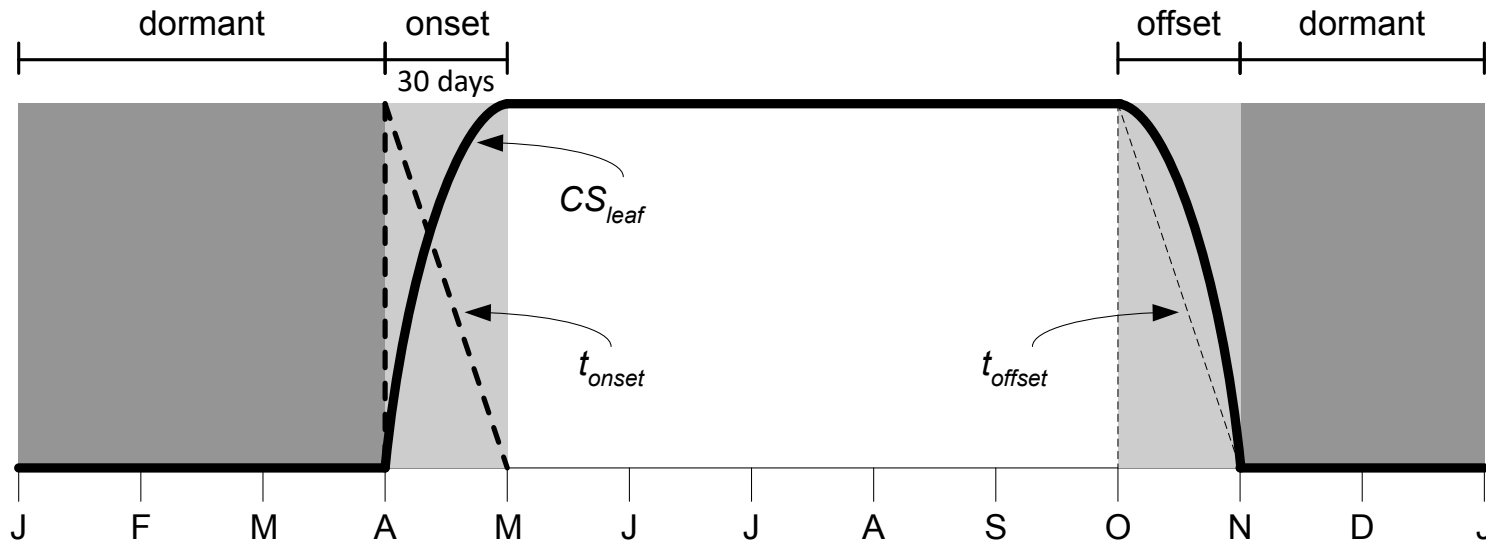
**Other requirements that must be met:**

**Temperature:** growing degree day > **crit\_onset\_gdd**

**Water:** **soilpsi\_on** > **crit\_onset\_swi**

**Daylength:** daylength > 6 hours

# Stress Deciduous



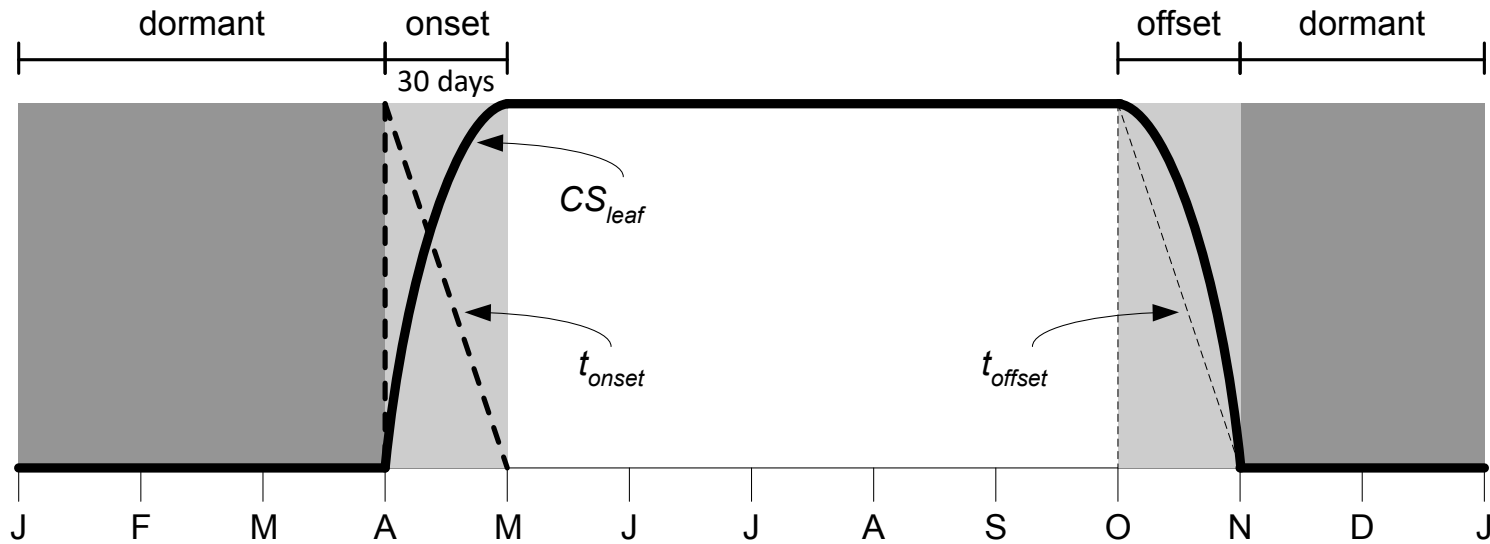
Offset is triggered by one of three criteria:

$soilpsi_{off} < crit_{offset\_swi}$

# of freezing days  $< crit_{offset\_fdd}$

Daylength  $< 6$  hrs

# Stress Deciduous



If plants don't enter an offset phase during the year, they switch to background litterfall rates until offset is triggered.

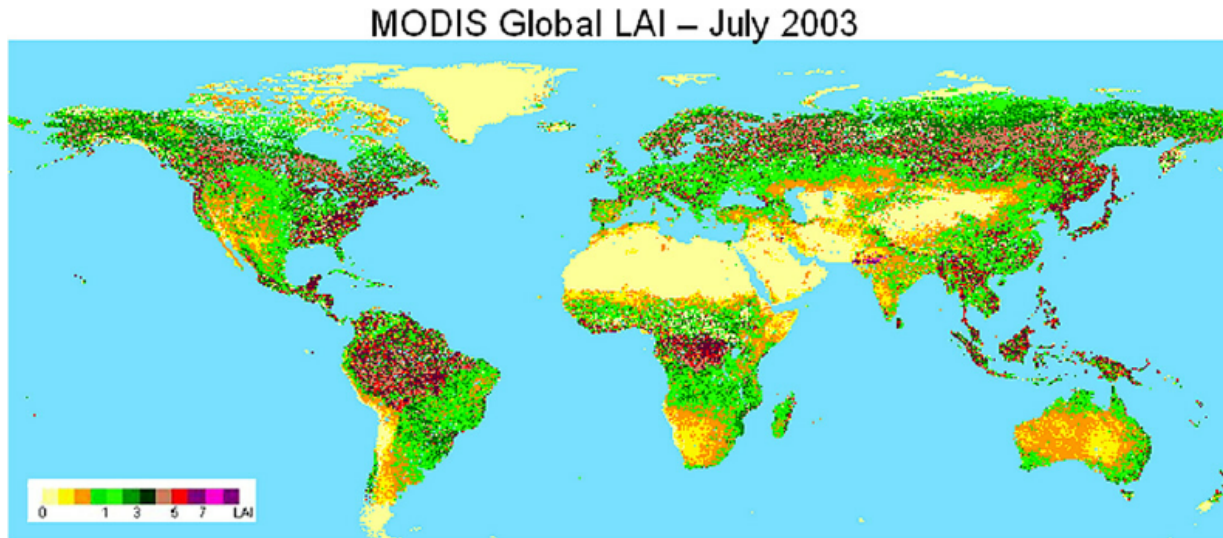
# Crop Phenology

Is different from natural  
vegetation phenology

See crop model talk tomorrow



# Satellite Phenology (SP)



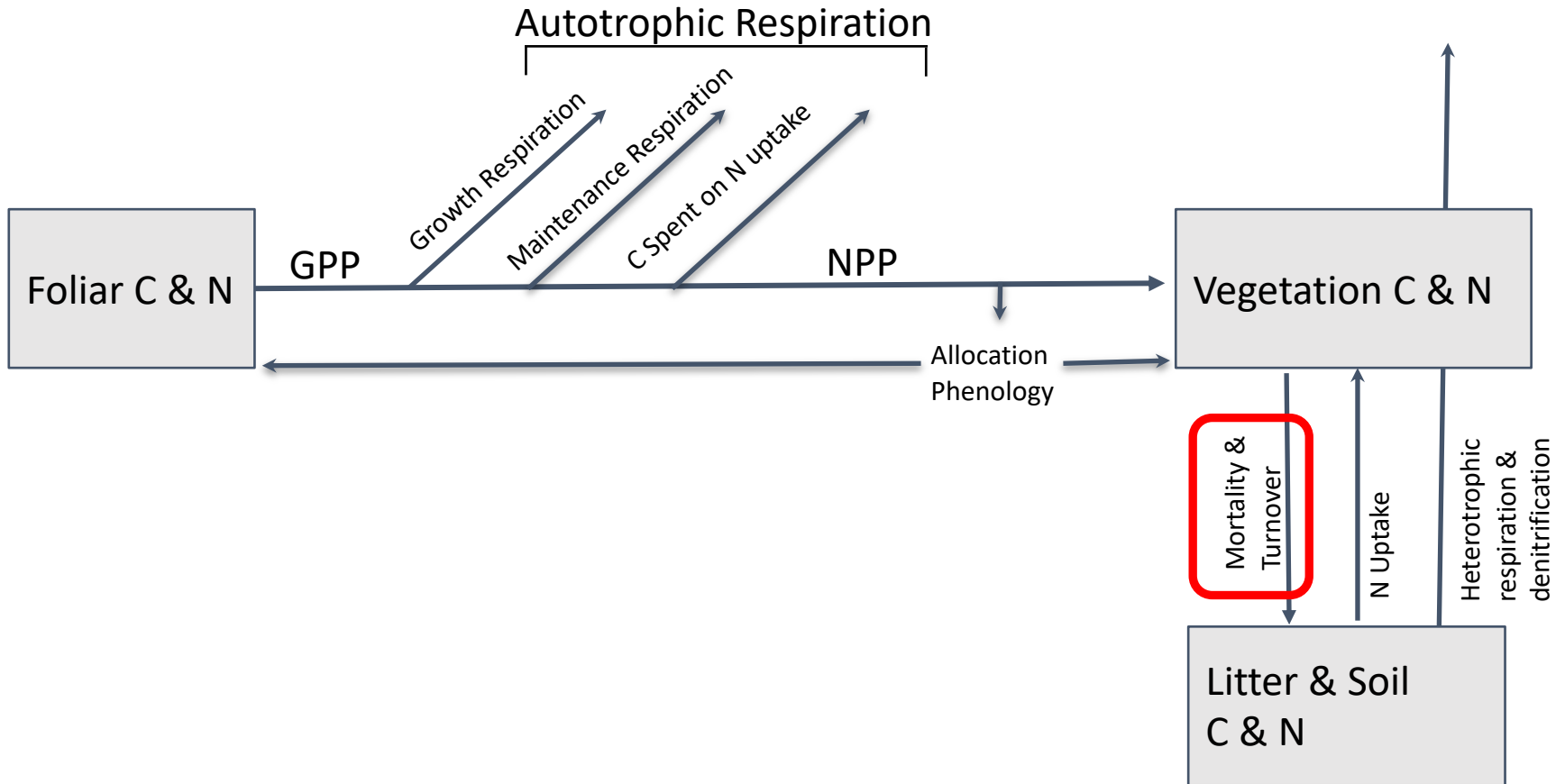
Uses climatological average of MODIS LAI (monthly values)

Dynamic phenology not used and biogeochemistry turned off

- 
1. Allocation
  2. Autotrophic Respiration
  3. Phenology
  4. **Mortality & Turnover**

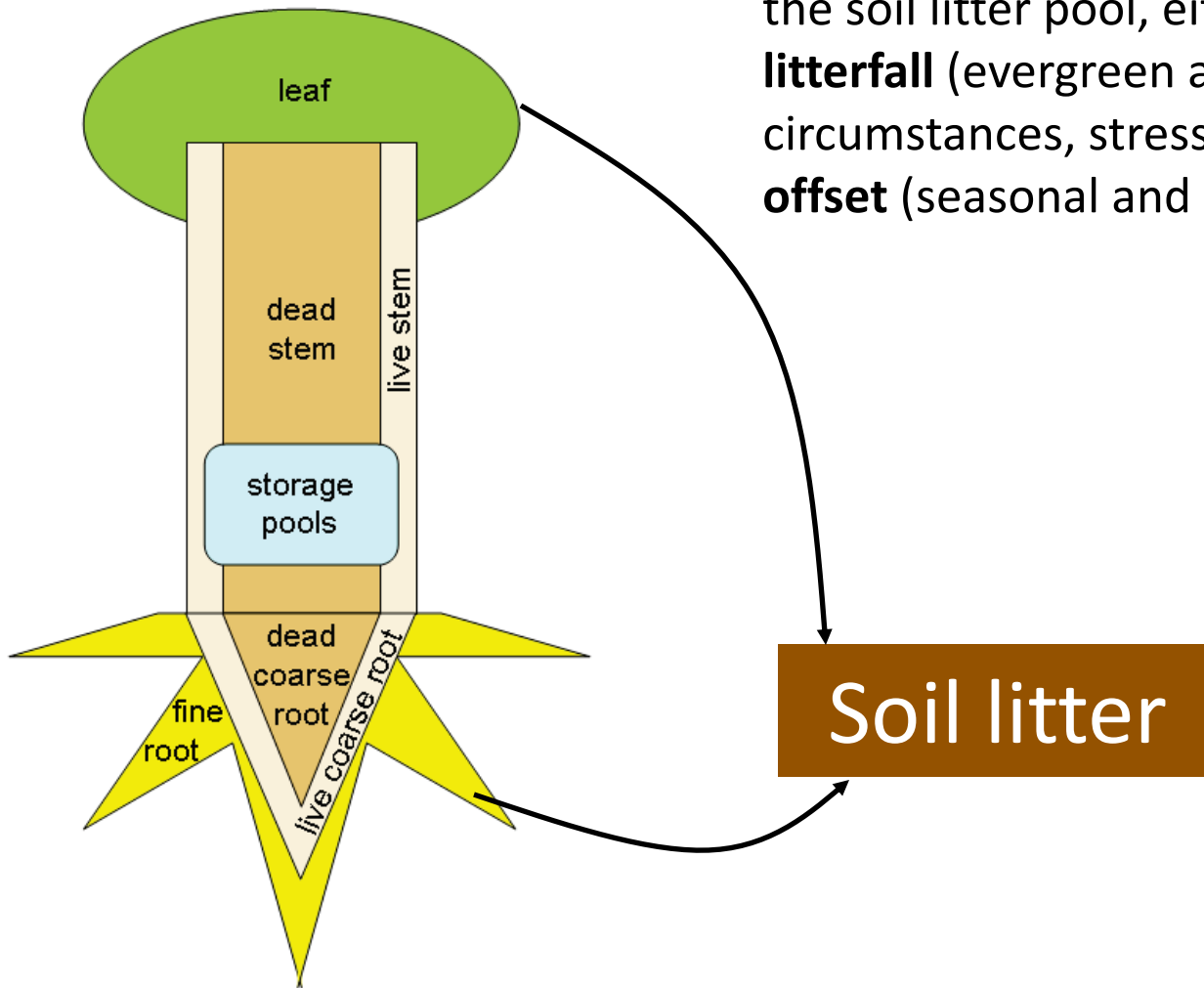


# Overview



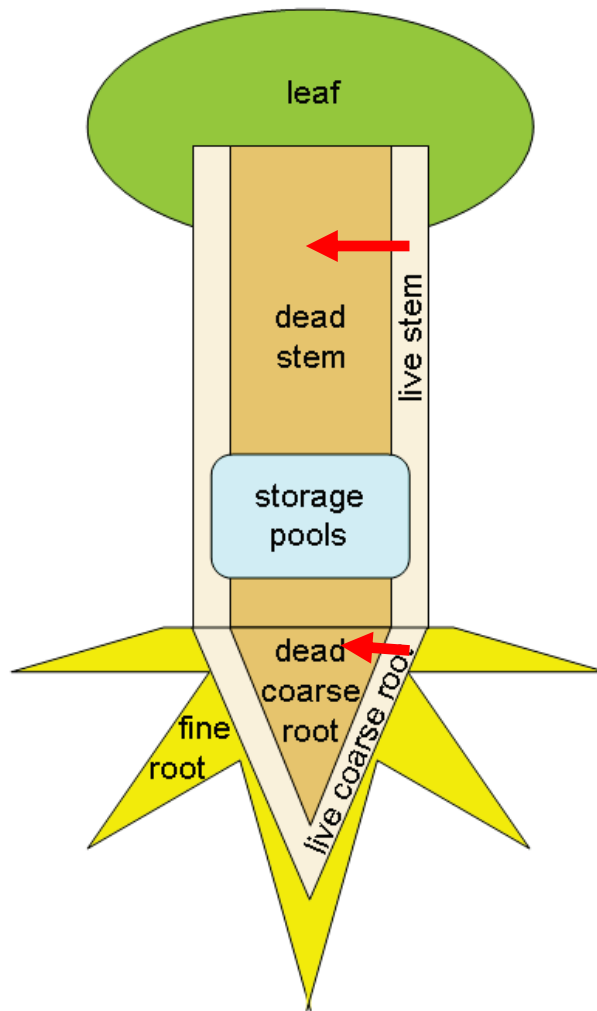
# Litterfall

Leaf and fine root C and N are transferred to the soil litter pool, either through **background litterfall** (evergreen and under some circumstances, stress deciduous) or during **offset** (seasonal and stress deciduous)



# Live wood to dead wood

*Includes stem and root pools*



Occurs throughout year  
based on specified rate

Parameter: **lwtop\_ann** = 0.7

Associated with  
retranslocation of N  
because live wood has more  
N than dead wood

# Mortality

*Gap-phase mortality is intended to represent perennial plant death due to wind throw, insect attack, disease, extreme temperatures or drought, and age-related decline in vigor (aggregated)*



Fixed percentage of biomass  
across globe

Parameter: **am** = 0.02

Multiplied by all pools  
(represents whole tree death)

Leaf and fine roots transferred  
to litter; wood and coarse  
roots to coarse woody debris

# Overview

