

Biology Seminar



Western
UNIVERSITY · CANADA

12:30 - 1:30 pm
Friday, September 24, 2021
On ZOOM



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Save some for later: carbohydrate storage in herbaceous perennial plants

Plant leaves acquire the carbon plants need to build their bodies, and leaf traits have been classified within the leaf economic spectrum to explain how plants manage their carbohydrates and other resources. Trees and annual plants typically align conveniently within this fast-slow continuum, but this does not accurately describe herbaceous perennials. The herbs of temperate regions save some of their carbohydrates belowground to rebuild aboveground structures after seasonal rest or disturbance. Along with acquisition, storage is a vital part of plant economy and growth strategy. Here I will discuss three correlative studies to investigate the role of storage and associated belowground traits along different environmental gradients. The exploration of carbohydrates storage in herbs has only just begun. We must collect more data on the types of carbohydrates that plants store and the amount of storage available, and this must be done along a broad range of environmental and disturbance gradients.

