

## *Precipitation*

*In meteorology , **precipitation** is any product of the condensation of atmospheric water vapor that falls under gravitational pull from clouds.*

## *Benefits*

*Water helps a plant by transporting important nutrients through the plant. Nutrients are drawn from the soil and used by the plant. Without enough water in the cells, the plant will droop, so water helps a plant to stand upright. Water carries dissolved sugar and other nutrients through the plant.*

## *How does water availability affect tree growth?*

*Water stress is an important factor limiting the growth and productivity of forests. It can decrease growth directly through its effect on turgor, or indirectly by limiting carbon gain.*

## *How does water availability affect species diversity in an ecosystem?*

*Millions of other species,, depend on fresh water to drink. When an area loses a large percentage of its fresh water, many plants die off. In some cases, species go entirely extinct. This leads to a decrease in the region's biodiversity.*

## *How does forests improve water quality?*

*By minimizing soil erosion, reducing sediment, and absorbing polluting chemicals, forests maintain and improve water quality. Forest understory plants, leaf litter, and tree roots trap sediments and keep them from moving downslope and into waterways.*