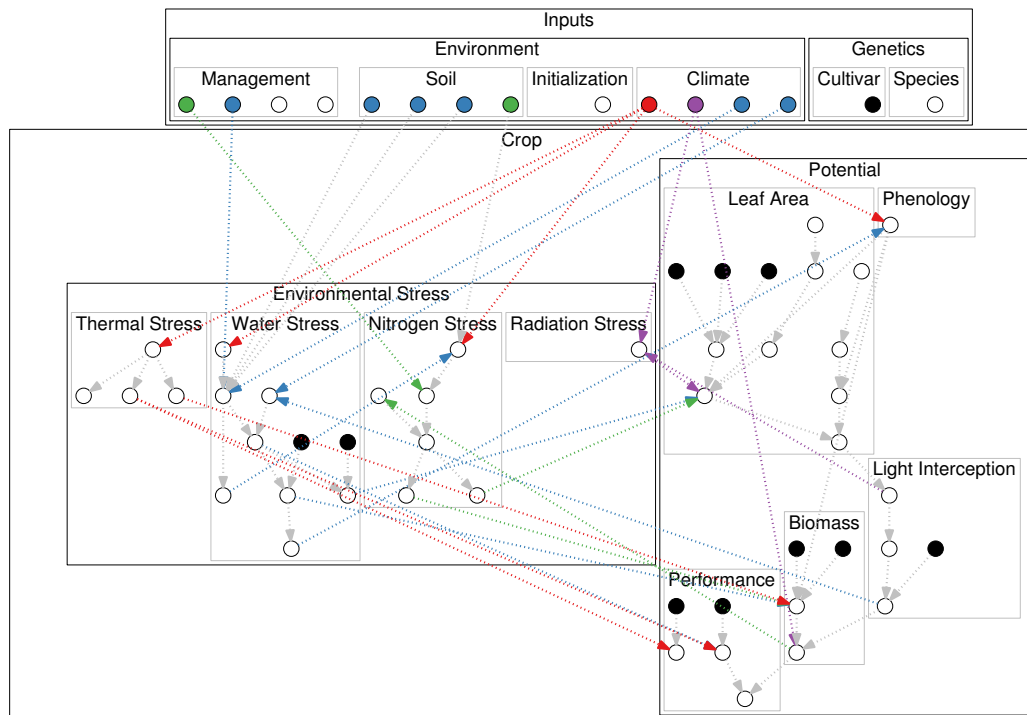


*Documentation for the SUNFLO crop model*  
*October 14, 2015*



## Abstract

SUNFLO is a process-based model for the sunflower crop which was developed to simulate the grain yield and oil concentration as a function of time, environment (soil and climate), management practice and genetic diversity (Casadebaig et al., 2011; Debaeke et al., 2010; Lecoeur et al., 2011).

This model is based on a conceptual framework initially proposed by Monteith (1977) and now shared by a large family of crop models [REF]. In this framework, the crop dry biomass growth rate ( $dDM/dt$ ) is calculated as an ordinary differential equation [EQ1] function of incident photosynthetically active radiation ( $PAR$ ,  $MJ.m^{-2}$ ), light interception efficiency ( $1 - \exp^{-k \cdot LAI}$ ) and radiation use efficiency ( $RUE$ ,  $g.MJ^{-1}$ ). The light interception efficiency is based on Beer-Lambert's law as a function of leaf area index ( $LAI$ ) and light extinction coefficient ( $k$ ). The radiation use efficiency concept (Monteith, 1994) is used to represent photosynthesis at the crop scale.

[EQ1]

$$dDM/dt = RUE \cdot (1 - \exp^{-k \cdot LAI}) \cdot PAR$$

Broad scale processes of this framework, the dynamics of  $LAI$ , photosynthesis ( $RUE$ ) and biomass allocation to grains were split into finer processes (e.g leaf expansion and senescence, response functions to environmental stresses) to reveal genotypic specificity and to allow the emergence of genotype x environment interactions. Globally, the SUNFLO crop model has about 50 equations and 64 parameters (43 plant-related traits and 21 environment-related).

## Contents

<i>Abstract</i>	2
<i>Inputs</i>	5
<i>Climate</i>	5
<i>Soil</i>	5
<i>Management</i>	5
<i>Species</i>	6
<i>Cultivar</i>	6
<i>Phenology</i>	7
<i>Emergence</i>	7
<i>ThermalTime</i>	7
<i>PhenoStages</i>	7
<i>LeafArea</i>	8
<i>LeafInitiationTime, LeafExpansionTime, LeafSenescenceTime</i>	8
<i>LeafExpansionDuration</i>	8
<i>PotentialLeafArea</i>	8
<i>LeafExpansionRate, LeafSenescenceRate, LeafArea</i>	8
<i>Light interception</i>	10
<i>LAI</i>	10
<i>RIE</i>	10
<i>Biomass production</i>	11
<i>RUE</i>	11
<i>CropBiomass (Monteith, 1977)</i>	11
<i>CropPerformance</i>	11
<i>Thermal stress</i>	12
<i>ThermalStressRUE (Villalobos et al., 1996)</i>	12
<i>ThermalStressMineralization (Valé et al., 2007)</i>	12
<i>ThermalStressAllocation</i>	12
<i>Water stress</i>	13
<i>WaterDemand</i>	13
<i>WaterSupply</i>	13
<i>WaterStress</i>	13
<i>WaterStressExpansion, WaterStressConductance</i>	13
<i>WaterStressPhenology</i>	13
<i>WaterStressMineralization</i>	13

<i>Nitrogen stress</i>	14
<i>Radiation stress</i>	15
<i>RadiationStressExpansion (Rey, 2003)</i>	15
<i>Outputs</i>	16
<i>Timed variables</i>	16
<i>Indicators</i>	17
<i>References</i>	18

## Inputs

### Climate

label	description	unit
TemperatureAirMin	Minimum air temperature	°C
TemperatureAirMax	Maximum air temperature	°C
Radiation	Global incident radiation	MJ.m <sup>-2</sup>
PET	Reference evapotranspiration (Penman-Monteith)	mm
Rainfall	Rainfall	mm

### Soil

label	description	value	unit	reference
RootingDepth	Potential rooting depth	1000.0	mm	(Lecoeur et al., 2011)
SoilWaterCapacity	Water content at field capacity (0-30 cm)	19.7	%	NA
SoilWaterCapacity	Water content at wilting point (0-30cm)	9.7	%	NA
SoilWaterCapacity	Water content at field capacity (30 cm-rooting depth)	19.7	%	NA
SoilWaterCapacity	Water content at wilting point (30 cm-rooting depth)	9.7	%	NA
SoilDensity	Soil bulk density (0-30cm)	1.3	g.cm <sup>-3</sup>	NA
SoilDensity	Soil bulk density (30 cm-rooting depth)	1.3	g.cm <sup>-3</sup>	NA
StoneContent	Stone content (0-rooting depth)	0.1	[0, 1]	NA
MineralizationRate	Potential nitrogen mineralization rate	0.5	kg.ha <sup>-1</sup> .day <sup>-1</sup> (normalized)	(Valé et al., 2007)

### Management

label	description	unit
SowingDate	Sowing date	date(dd/mm)
HarvestDate	Harvest date	date(dd/mm)
SowingDensity	Plant density	plant.m <sup>-2</sup>
Fertilization	Fertilization (date 1)	date(dd/mm)
Fertilization	Fertilization (amount 1)	kg.ha <sup>-1</sup> eq. mineral nitrogen
Fertilization	Fertilization (date 2)	date(dd/mm)
Fertilization	Fertilization (amount 2)	kg.ha <sup>-1</sup> eq. mineral nitrogen
Irrigation	Irrigation (date 1)	date(dd/mm)
Irrigation	Irrigation (amount 1)	mm
Irrigation	Irrigation (date 2)	date(dd/mm)
Irrigation	Irrigation (amount 2)	mm
Irrigation	Irrigation (date 3)	date(dd/mm)
Irrigation	Irrigation (amount 3)	mm

*Species**Cultivar*

label	description	value	unit	reference
ThermalTimeVegetative	Temperature sum to floral initiation	482.00	<i>C.d</i>	(Lecoeur et al., 2011)
ThermalTimeFlowering	Temperature sum from emergence to the beginning of flowering	836.00	<i>C.d</i>	(Lecoeur et al., 2011)
ThermalTimeSenescence	Temperature sum from emergence to the beginning of grain filling	1083.00	<i>C.d</i>	(Lecoeur et al., 2011)
ThermalTimeMaturity	Temperature sum from emergence to seed physiological maturity	1673.00	<i>C.d</i>	(Lecoeur et al., 2011)
PotentialLeafNumber	Potential number of leaves at flowering	29.00	<i>leaf</i>	(Lecoeur et al., 2011)
PotentialLeafProfile	Potential rank of the plant largest leaf at flowering	17.00	<i>leaf</i>	(Lecoeur et al., 2011)
PotentialLeafSize	Potential area of the plant largest leaf at flowering	448.00	$cm^{-2}$	(Lecoeur et al., 2011)
ExtinctionCoefficient	Light extinction coefficient during vegetative growth	0.88	-	(Lecoeur et al., 2011)
WaterResponseExpansion	Threshold for leaf expansion response to water stress	-4.42	-	(Casadebaig et al., 2011)
WaterResponseConductance	Threshold for stomatal conductance response to water stress	-9.30	-	(Casadebaig et al., 2011)
PotentialHarvestIndex	Potential harvest index	0.40	-	(Casadebaig et al., 2011)
PotentialOilContent	Potential seed oil content	55.40	% <i>dry_matter</i>	(Casadebaig et al., 2011)

## Phenology

label	description	value	unit	reference
ThermalTimeVegetative	Temperature sum to floral initiation	482.0	C.d	(Lecoeur et al., 2011)
ThermalTimeFlowering	Temperature sum from emergence to the beginning of flowering	836.0	C.d	(Lecoeur et al., 2011)
ThermalTimeSenescence	Temperature sum from emergence to the beginning of grain filling	1083.0	C.d	(Lecoeur et al., 2011)
ThermalTimeMaturity	Temperature sum from emergence to seed physiological maturity	1673.0	C.d	(Lecoeur et al., 2011)
SowingDepth	Sowing depth	30.0	mm	NA
Germination	Temperature sum from sowing to germination	86.2	C.d	(Casadebaig et al., 2011)
ElongationRate	Reciprocal of hypocotyl elongation rate	1.2	Cd.mm <sup>-1</sup>	(Villalobos et al., 1996)

## Emergence

$Emergence = Germination + ElongationRate * SowingDepth$   
with:

- $Germination = 86$ , Thermal time for germination (°C.d);
- $ElongationRate = 1.19$ , Hypocotyl elongation rate (°Cd/mm)
- $SowingDepth = 30$ , Sowing depth (mm).

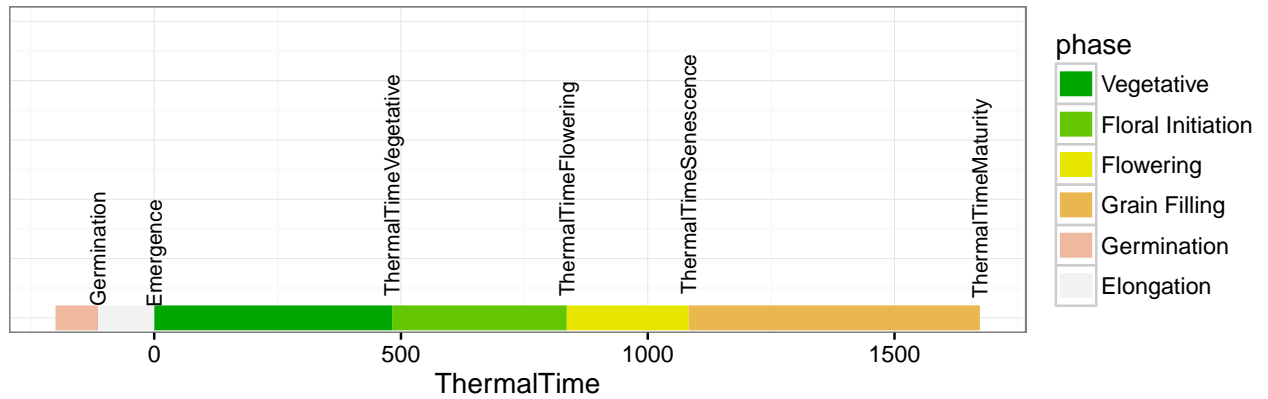
## ThermalTime

$$ThermalTime_d = \begin{cases} \int_0^d (T_m - T_b) * (1 + WaterStressPhenology) & \text{if } T_m > T_b \\ 0 & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

with:

- $T_m$ , Daily mean air temperature (°C);
- $T_b = 4.8$ , Basal temperature (°C) (Granier and Tardieu, 1998);
- $ThermalStressPhenology$ , Water stress effect on plant heating

## PhenoStages



In the software model, phenostages are computed as integers  $\in [0, 7]$  corresponding to duration between key stages:

- 0, beginning of simulation - sowing (bare soil)
- 1, sowing (A0) - emergence (A2)
- 2, emergence (A2) - floral initiation (E1)
- 3, floral initiation (E1) - flowering (F1)
- 4, flowering (F1) - onset of senescence (M0)
- 5, onset of senescence (M0) - maturity (M3)
- 6, maturity (M3) - harvest
- 7, harvest - end of simulation (bare soil)

## LeafArea

label	description	value	unit	reference
PotentialLeafNumber	Potential number of leaves at flowering	29.0	leaf	(Lecoeur et al., 2011)
PotentialLeafProfile	Potential rank of the plant largest leaf at flowering	17.0	leaf	(Lecoeur et al., 2011)
PotentialLeafSize	Potential area of the plant largest leaf at flowering	448.0	cm <sup>-2</sup>	(Lecoeur et al., 2011)
Phyllotherm <sub>1</sub>	Phyllotherm (leaf ≤ 6)	71.4	C.d	(Rey, 2003)
Phyllotherm <sub>7</sub>	Phyllotherm (leaf > 7)	16.3	C.d	(Rey, 2003)
PotentialLeafDuration	Thermal time between expansion and senescence	851.3	C.d	(Casadebaig, 2008)

## LeafInitiationTime, LeafExpansionTime, LeafSenescenceTime

$$LeafInitiationTime_i = \begin{cases} i * Phyllotherm_1 & \text{if } i \leq 6 \\ (i - 5) * Phyllotherm_7 + 6 * Phyllotherm_1 & \text{if } i \leq LeafNumber \end{cases}$$

with:

- $Phyllotherm_1 = 76.43$  (°C.d)
- $Phyllotherm_7 = 16.34$  (°C.d)

$$LeafExpansionTime_i = LeafInitiation_i + 1/a$$

with  $a = 0.01379$ .

## LeafExpansionDuration

$$LeafExpansionDuration_i = a + PotentialLeafDuration * \exp\left(\frac{-(i - PotentialLeafProfile)^2}{(c * PotentialLeafNumber)^2}\right)$$

with:

- $PotentialLeafDuration = 851.3$  (°C.d)
- $a = 153$  (°C.d)
- $b = 0.78$

$$LeafSenescenceTime_i = LeafExpansionTime_i + LeafExpansionDuration_i$$

## PotentialLeafArea

$$PotentialLeafArea_i = PotentialLeafSize * \exp\left(a * \left(\frac{i - PotentialLeafProfile}{PotentialLeafProfile - 1}\right)^2 + b * \left(\frac{i - PotentialLeafProfile}{PotentialLeafProfile - 1}\right)^3\right)$$

with: \*  $a = -2.05$  and  $b = 0.049$ , shape parameters \*  $PotentialLeafSize$  (cm<sup>2</sup>) and  $PotentialLeafProfile$  (node), genotypic parameters.

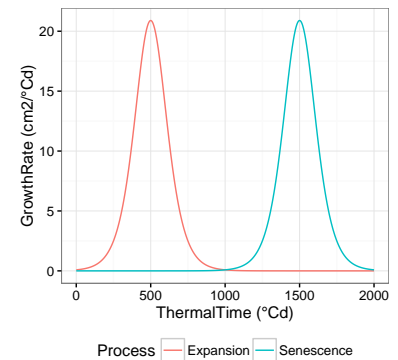
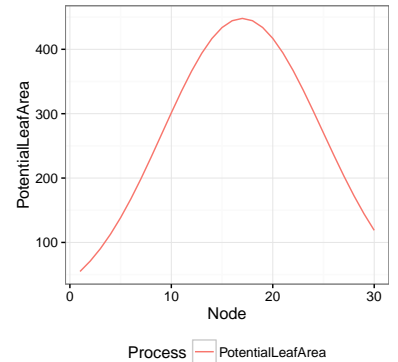
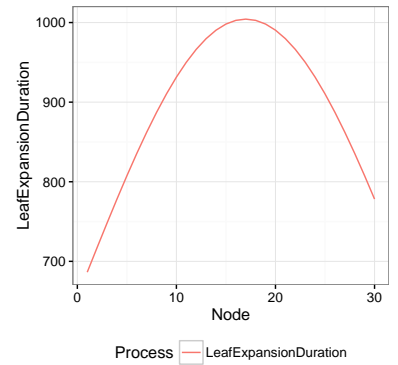
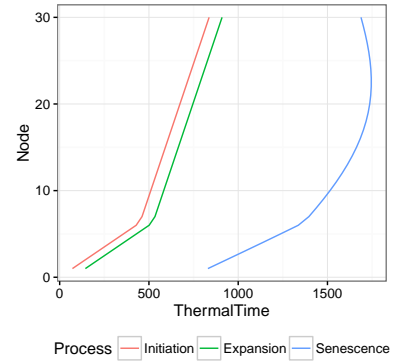
## LeafExpansionRate, LeafSenescenceRate, LeafArea

$$LeafExpansionRate_i = \frac{(T_m - T_b) * PotentialLeafArea_i * a * \exp^{-a(ThermalTime - LeafExpansionTime_i)}}{(1 + \exp^{-a(ThermalTime - LeafExpansionTime_i)})^2}$$

$$LeafSenescenceRate_i = \frac{(T_m - T_b) * LeafArea_i * a * \exp^{-a(ThermalTime - LeafSenescenceTime_i)}}{(1 + \exp^{-a(ThermalTime - LeafSenescenceTime_i)})^2}$$

with:

- $T_m = 25$ , mean air temperature (°C)
- $T_b = 4.8$ , base temperature (°C)
- $a = 0.01379$





The illustration uses  $i = 10$  as values for  $PotentialLeafArea_i$ ,  $LeafExpansionTime_i$  and  $LeafSenescenceTime_i$

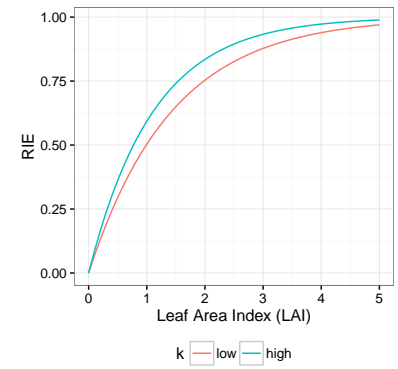
$$LeafArea_i = \int LeafExpansionRate_i - \int LeafSenescenceRate_i$$

*Light interception**LAI*

$$LAI = SowingDensity * \sum_{i=1}^{LeafNumber} LeafArea_i$$

*RIE*

$$RIE = 1 - \exp(-ExtinctionCoefficient * LAI)$$



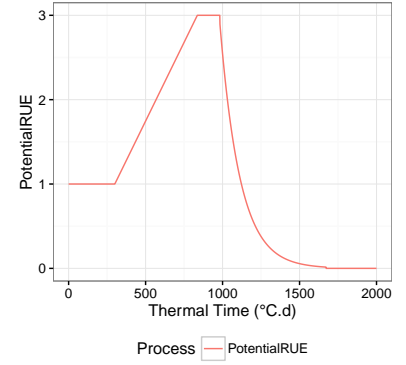
## Biomass production

### RUE

$$PotentialRUE = \begin{cases} r_0 & \text{if } ThermalTime < 300 \\ r_0 + 2 * \frac{ThermalTime - 300}{ThermalTimeFlowering - 300} & \text{if } 300 < ThermalTime < ThermalTimeFlowering \\ r_{max} & \text{if } ThermalTimeFlowering < ThermalTime < ThermalTimeSenescence \\ a * \exp^{b * (1 - \frac{ThermalTime - ThermalTimeMaturity}{ThermalTimeMaturity - ThermalTimeSenescence})} & \text{if } ThermalTimeSenescence < ThermalTime < ThermalTimeMaturity \\ 0 & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

with:

- $r_0 = 1$ , vegetative RUE
- $r_{max} = 3$ , maximum RUE
- $a = 0.015$ , final RUE
- $b = 4.5$ , slope of RUE decrease in grain filling stage



### CropBiomass (Monteith, 1977)

$$dCropBiomass = Radiation * 0.48 * RIE * RUE * dt$$

### CropPerformance

## Thermal stress

*ThermalStressRUE* (Villalobos et al., 1996)

$$ThermalStressRUE = \begin{cases} T_m * \frac{1}{T_{ol}-T_b} - \frac{T_b}{T_{ol}-T_b} & \text{if } T_b < T_m < T_{ol} \\ 1 & \text{if } T_{ol} < T_m < T_{ou} \\ T_m * \frac{1}{T_{ou}-T_c} - \frac{T_c}{T_{ou}-T_c} & \text{if } T_{ou} < T_m < T_c \\ 0 & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

with:

- $T_b = 4.8$ , base temperature (°C)
- $T_{ol} = 20$ , optimal lower temperature (°C)
- $T_{ou} = 28$ , optimal upper temperature (°C)
- $T_c = 37$ , critical temperature (°C)

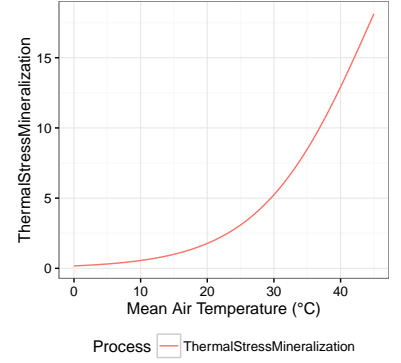
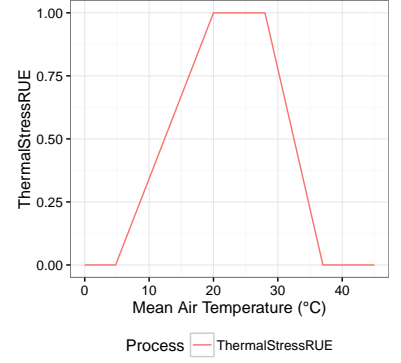
*ThermalStressMineralization* (Valé et al., 2007)

$$ThermalStressMineralization = \frac{T_c}{1 + (T_c - 1) * \exp(-0.119 * (T_m - T_b))}$$

with:

- $T_b = 15$ , base temperature (°C)
- $T_c = 36$ , critical temperature (°C)

*ThermalStressAllocation*



## Water stress

### WaterDemand

$$WaterDemand = K_c * PET * RIE$$

with  $K_c = 1.2$ , crop coefficient

### WaterSupply

$$WaterSupply = Rainfall + Irrigation - Transpiration - Evaporation - Drainage$$

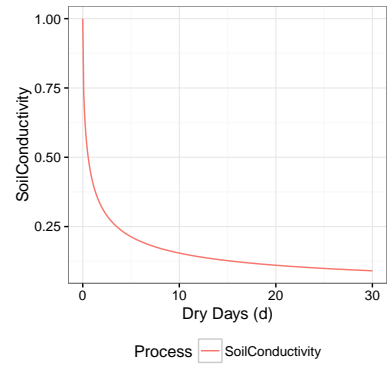
$$Transpiration = WaterDemand * WaterStressConductance$$

$$Evaporation = (1 - RIE) * PET * SoilConductivity$$

$$SoilConductivity = \sqrt{x+1} - \sqrt{x}$$

with

$$dx/dt = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } Rainfall + Irrigation \leq 4 \\ 0 & \text{else} \end{cases}$$



### WaterStress

$$WaterStress = \frac{WaterAvailable}{WaterTotal}$$

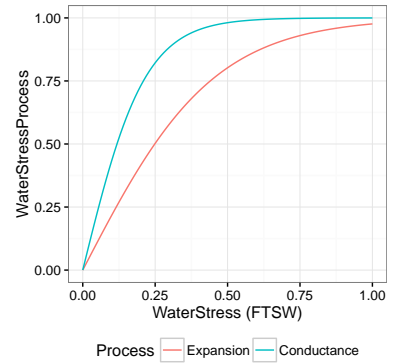
$$WaterAvailable = WaterSupply$$

$$WaterTotal = SoilWaterCapacity * SoilDensity * (1 - StoneContent) * RootingDepth$$

### WaterStressExpansion, WaterStressConductance

$$WaterStressProcess = -1 + \frac{2}{1 + \exp(a * WaterStress)}$$

with  $a \in [-15.6; -2.3]$ , genotype-dependant response parameter



### WaterStressPhenology

$$WaterStressPhenology = a * (1 - WaterStressConductance)$$

with  $a = 0.1$ , scaling parameter for water-stress plant heating

### WaterStressMineralization

$$WaterStressMineralization = 1 - (1 - y_0) * (1 - RelativeWaterContent_{layer1})$$

*Nitrogen stress*

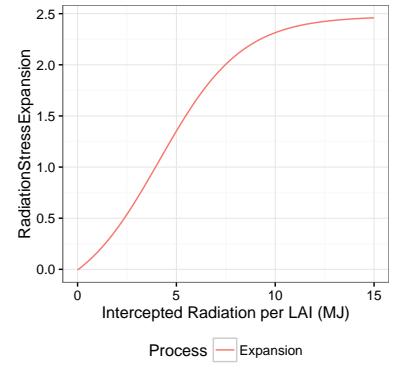
## Radiation stress

*RadiationStressExpansion* (Rey, 2003)

$$RadiationStressExpansion = s * a + \frac{b}{1 + \exp\left(\frac{c - IPAR/LAI}{d}\right)}$$

with:

- $s = 2.5$ , scaling parameter for density effect;
- $a = -0.14$ ;  $b = 1.13$ ;  $c = 4.13$ ;  $d = 2.09$



## Outputs

### Timed variables

symbol	label	description	unit
TN	TemperatureAirMin	Minimum air temperature	C
TX	TemperatureAirMax	Maximum air temperature	C
TM	TemperatureAirMean	Mean air temperature	C
GR	Radiation	Global incident radiation	$MJ.m^{-2}$
ETP	PET	Reference evapotranspiration	mm
RR	Rainfall	Rainfall	mm
TTA2	ThermalTime	Temperature sum from emergence	C.d
PhenoStage	PhenoStage	Phenological stages index	-
FTSW	WaterStress	Water stress index	-
FHTR	WaterStressConductance	Transpiration response to water stress	-
FHRUE	WaterStressConductance	Photosynthesis response to water stress	-
ETRETM	WaterSupplyDemandRatio	Water supply:demand ratio	-
FTRUE	ThermalStressRUE	Photosynthesis response to thermal stress	-
NAB	NitrogenAbsorbed	Absorbed nitrogen	$kg.ha^{-1}.d^{-1}$
NNI	NitrogenNutritionIndex	Nitrogen nutrition index	-
FN RUE	NitrogenStressRUE	Photosynthesis response to nitrogen stress	-
LAI	LAI	Leaf area index	-
RIE	RIE	Radiation interception efficiency	-
RUE	RUE	Radiation use efficiency	-
TDM	CropBiomass	Crop aerial dry biomass	$g.m^{-2}$
GY	CropYield	Grain yield	$q.ha^{-1}$
OC	OilContent	Grain oil content	%(drymatter)



*Indicators*

level	factor	symbol	description	unit	formula
climate	light	SGR	Photosynthetically active radiation	$MJ.m^{-2}$	$sum(GR * 0.48)$
climate	water	SRR	Rain	$mm$	$sum(RR)$
climate	water	SETP	Potential evapotranspiration	$mm$	$sum(PET)$
climate	water	SCWD	Climatic water deficit	$mm$	$sum(RR - PET)$
species	temperature	TT	Thermal time (4.8 C basis)	$C.d$	$sum(TM - 4.8)$
species	temperature	D_SE	Duration of sowing - emergence phase	$d$	-
genotype	temperature	D_EF	Duration of vegetative phase	$d$	-
genotype	temperature	D_FM	Duration of flowering phase	$d$	-
genotype	temperature	D_MH	Duration of grain filling phase	$d$	-
species	temperature	NHT	Thermal stress, high temperature (discrete)	$d$	$sum(TM > 28)$
species	temperature	NLT	Thermal stress, low temperature (discrete)	$d$	$sum(TM < 20)$
species	temperature	SFTRUE	Thermal stress impact on photosynthesis	-	$sum(1 - FTRUE)$
species	water	SFTSW	Edaphic water deficit (continuous)	-	$sum(1 - FTSW)$
species	water	METR	Edaphic water deficit (continuous)	-	$mean(ET/PET)$
species	water	NETR	Edaphic water deficit (discrete)	$d$	$sum(ET/PET < 0.6)$
genotype	water	SFHTR	Water stress impact on crop transpiration	-	$sum(1 - FHTR)$
genotype	water	SFHRUE	Water stress impact on crop photosynthesis	-	$sum(1 - FHRUE)$
species	nitrogen	SNAB	Absorbed nitrogen	$kg.ha^{-1}$	$diff(range(NAB))$
species	nitrogen	SNNI	Nitrogen deficit (continuous)	-	$sum(1 - NNI)$
species	nitrogen	SFNRUE	Nitrogen stress impact on photosynthesis	-	$sum(1 - FNRUE)$
genotype	-	LAI	Leaf area index	-	$max(LAI)$
genotype	-	LAD	Leaf area duration	-	$sum(LAI)$
genotype	light	SIR	Intercepted radiation	$MJ.m^{-2}$	$sum(RIE * GR * 0.48)$
genotype	-	MRUE	Photosynthesis	$g.MJ^{-1}.m^{-2}$	$mean(RUE)$
genotype	-	STDm	Aerial Biomass	$g.m^{-2}$	$max(TDM)$
genotype	-	GY	Grain yield	$q.ha^{-1}$	$max(GY)$
genotype	-	OC	Grain oil content	$\%(drymatter)$	$max(OC)$

## References

- Casadebaig, P., 2008. Analyse et modélisation de l'interaction Génotype - Environnement - Conduite de culture: Application au tournesol (*Helianthus annuus* L.) (PhD Thesis). Toulouse University.
- Casadebaig, P., Debaeke, P., Lecoeur, J., 2008. Thresholds for leaf expansion and transpiration response to soil water deficit in a range of sunflower genotypes. *European Journal of Agronomy* 28, 646–654.
- Casadebaig, P., Guillioni, L., Lecoeur, J., Christophe, A., Champolivier, L., Debaeke, P., 2011. SUNFLO, a model to simulate genotype-specific performance of the sunflower crop in contrasting environments. *Agricultural and Forest Meteorology* 151, 163–178.
- Debaeke, P., Casadebaig, P., Haquin, B., Mestries, E., Palleau, J.-P., Salvi, F., 2010. Simulation de la réponse variétale du tournesol à l'environnement à l'aide du modèle sUNFLO. *Oléagineux, Corps Gras, Lipides* 17, 143–51.
- Granier, C., Tardieu, F., 1998. Is thermal time adequate for expressing the effects of temperature on sunflower leaf development? *Plant, Cell & Environment* 21, 695–703.
- Lecoeur, J., Poiré-Lassus, R., Christophe, A., Pallas, B., Casadebaig, P., Debaeke, P., Vear, F., Guillioni, L., 2011. Quantifying physiological determinants of genetic variation for yield potential in sunflower. SUNFLO: a model-based analysis. *Functional Plant Biology* 38, 246–259.
- Monteith, J.L., 1977. Climate and the Efficiency of Crop Production in Britain. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London. Series B, Biological Sciences* 281, 277–294.
- Monteith, J.L., 1994. Validity of the correlation between intercepted radiation and biomass. *Agricultural and Forest Meteorology* 68, 213–220.
- Rey, H., 2003. Utilisation de la modélisation 3D pour l'analyse et la simulation du développement et de la croissance végétative d'une plante de tournesol en conditions environnementales fluctuantes (température et rayonnement). (PhD thesis). Ecole Nationale Supérieure Agronomique de Montpellier, spécialité sciences agronomiques, CIRAD-AMAP / INRA - LEPSE.
- Valé, M., Mary, B., Justes, E., 2007. Irrigation practices may affect denitrification more than nitrogen mineralization in warm climatic conditions. *Biology and Fertility of Soils* 43, 641–651.
- Villalobos, F., Hall, A., Ritchie, J., Orgaz, F., 1996. OILCROP-SUN: A development, growth and yield model of the sunflower crop. *Agronomy Journal* 88, 403–415.