**GRAVIMETRIC DETERMINATION OF PLANT MOISTURE CONTENT**

Knowing the moisture of the plant biomass will inform whether the arrays are creating a novel habitat for the plants which may reduce water stress due to drought and/or heat. Plant moisture is determined gravimetrically by weighing a plant sample before and after drying at 65 ⁰C over 72 h+ (until constant weight).

**Materials**:

* Weigh boats
* sharpies
* Precision scale
* Drying oven
* plant samples (live biomass, removed at surface, area sampled recorded in cm2 or m2)

**Procedure**:

1. label a clean paper weigh boat with your sample information (sample ID)
2. Weigh the labeled boat, record mass
3. Add all green plant biomass
4. Record weight of bag + field collected plant biomass
5. Place the samples in the oven at 65C for 48h (minimum)
6. Using oven gloves, carefully remove the bags from the oven and allow them to cool
7. Weight and record the dry plant samples + boat, return to oven
8. Reweigh 6 samples the following day. If weight has not changed, remove all samples from oven and weigh.

\*\*SAVE YOUR DRIED PLANT AND SOIL SAMPLES FOR FURTHER ANALYES (%C, %N).

Calculate plant moisture as follows:

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