



Taiga: Crucial part of temperate ecosystems

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DESCRIPTION

Taiga generally in North America recognized as a boreal forest or snow forest, is a biome i.e., characterized by coniferous forests comprise mostly of pines, spruces, and larches.

The taiga or boreal forest has been known the world's largest land biome. In North America, it covers most of inland area of Canada, Alaska, and parts of the northern contiguous United States.

In Eurasia, it covers most of Sweden, Finland, much of Russia from Karelia in the west to the Pacific Ocean (counting much of Siberia), much of Norway and Estonia, some of the Scottish Highlands, some lowland/coastal regions of Iceland, and areas of northern Kazakhstan, northern Mongolia, and northern Japan (on the island of Hokkaidō).

The core tree species, the length of the growing season and summer temperatures contrast across the world. The taiga of North America is characteristically spruce, Scandinavian and Finnish taiga comprises of a mix of spruce, pines and birch, Russian taiga has spruces, pines and larches depending on the region, while the Eastern Siberian taiga is a vast larch forest.

The growing season, when the vegetation in the taiga comes blooming, is usually slightly longer than the climatic definition of summer as the plants of the boreal biome have a lower temperature threshold to elicit growth than other plants.

The lengthiest growing season is found in the smaller areas with oceanic impacts; in coastal areas of Scandinavia and Finland, the growing season of the closed boreal forest can be 145–180 days.

The shortest growing season is found at the northern taiga–tundra eco tone, where the northern taiga forest no longer can propagate and the tundra leads the landscape. When the growing season is down to 50–70 days, and the 24hrs average of the warmest month of the year usually is 10°C (50°F) or less. High latitudes refers that the sun does not rise far above the horizon, and less solar energy is customary than further south. But the high latitude also confirms very long summer days, as the sun stays above the horizon nearly 20 hours each day, or up to 24 hours, with only around 6 hours of daylight, or none, occurring in the dark winters, depending on latitude. The zones of the taiga inside the Arctic Circle have midnight sun in mid-summer and polar night in mid-winter.

CONCLUSION

Taiga soil is likely to be fledging and poor in nutrients, lacking the deep, organically enriched profile present in temperate deciduous forests. The colder climate hinders expansion of soil, and the ease with which plants can custom its nutrients. The relative dearth of deciduous trees, which drop huge volumes of leaves annually, and grazing animals, which subsidize significant manure, are also factors. The diversity of soil organisms in the boreal forest is extraordinary, comparable to the tropical rainforest. Fallen leaves and moss can linger on the forest floor for a long time in the cool, moist climate, which confines their organic contribution to the soil. Acids from evergreen needles further leach the soil, forming spodosol, also known as podzol, and the acidic forest floor often has only lichens and some mosses growing on it.