

GENERAL INFORMATION

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Synthesis of the PhD thesis of Muys.

The tree species was the most important factor affecting the quality of the litter layer. Leaves that fall green or yellow are, overall, richer in nutrients and show a fast decomposition. Brown or red-coloured leaves and needles are rich in lignin, tannins, and polyphenoles, which results in a slow decomposition. The clay content of the soil and the forest history were also important.

twenty years after afforestation, the pH, CEC, and earthworm biomass were lower in a pin oak stand than in stands of ash, cherry, black alder, and lime. Soil compaction was less under pedunculate oak, sycamore maple, limed beech than under beech.