The food web of Tuesday Lake in 1984.





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•The percentage of NPP that enters the decomposer system for a range of different terrestrial (shaded) and aquatic (clear) ecosystems. For the majority of terrestrial systems, well over half of primary production enters the detrital component. Overall, in aquatic systems, a greater percentage of primary production ends up being consumed by herbivores. (Redrawn from Cebrian and Lartigue, 2004.)



The illustration is not drawn to scale and is redrawn from figure 3-12 in (2005) Fundamentals of ecology, Brooks Cole, pp. 598 ISBN: 9780534420666., which is based on published experimental data. Notation: P=Producer, C1=primary consumer, C2=secondary consumer, C3=tertiary consumer, S=saprotroph http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Food\_web Section 2, Page 1



•The Decomposition Triangle: climate, litter quality, and decomposer organisms are the three main drivers of decomposition. Where something sits along these three axes determines how fast it decomposes.



•Examples of how litter quality affects decomposition rates. Plant leaves decompose more rapidly with higher nitrogen (top) and lower lignin (bottom) concentrations. (Redrawn from McClaugherty et al. 1985 and Hobbie et al. 2006).



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•Succession of decomposer organisms. Clockwise from top left: fresh (no decomposers present), early, mid, late.





Food web of the compost pile (D. Dindal) <u>http://www.nzdl.org/</u>