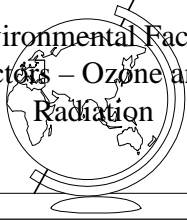


## Environmental Factors Other factors – Ozone and UV-B Radiation



K. Raja Reddy  
Kreddy@pss.msstate.edu

Mississippi State University  
A Land-Grant Institution

## Environmental and Cultural Factors Limiting Potential Yields

- Atmospheric Carbon Dioxide
- Temperature (Extremes)
- Solar Radiation
- Water
- Wind
- Nutrients (N and K)
- Others, ozone, UV-B radiation etc.,
- Growth Regulators (PIX)

## Ozone and Ultraviolet-B Radiation - Objectives

The objectives of this lecture are to:

- Learn about the ozone story and climate change.
- Learn global and regional trends in ozone and ultraviolet-B levels.
- Influence of ozone and ultraviolet-B on plants. Learn about water content of various plant parts.

## The Ozone Story

The ozone story and the greenhouse effect are two separate phenomena, though confused with one another.



Ozone plays two roles in the atmosphere:

1. Near the ground, ozone is an air pollutant and a minor greenhouse gas.
2. In the upper atmosphere, particularly in the stratosphere (15-40 km or 10-25 miles above the Earth's surface), it forms a layer that helps protect us and other organisms from the deleterious effects UV radiation which causes increased skin cancers and cataracts and potential damage to some marine organisms, plants, and plastics, by absorbing UV radiation from the Sun.

The current research evidence shows that the ozone layer is gradually thinning and more UV is reaching the earth surface.

**The Ozone Process:**  
 $O_2 + \text{photon (radiation} < 240 \text{ nm)} \rightarrow 2 O$   
 $O + O_2 \rightarrow O_3$

**The Ozone Depletion Process**  
 It is destroyed by the reaction with atomic oxygen:  
 $O_3 + O \rightarrow 2 O_2$

The CFC compounds have half-life period of 20 to 120 years or more. They are very stable in the lower atmosphere, and reach stratosphere and are being broken down by UV releasing Cl.

$Cl + O_3 = ClO + O_2$   
 $ClO + O = Cl + O_2$

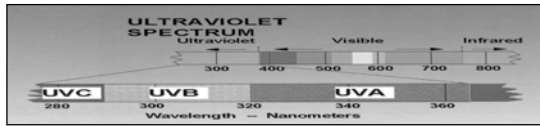
Ozone is converted to oxygen, leaving the chlorine atom free to repeat the process up to 100,000 times, resulting in a reduced level of ozone.

CFCs are commonly used as refrigerants, solvents, and foam blowing agents. The most common CFCs are CFC-11, CFC-12, CFC-113, CFC-114, and CFC-115.

## Other Ozone Depleting Chemicals

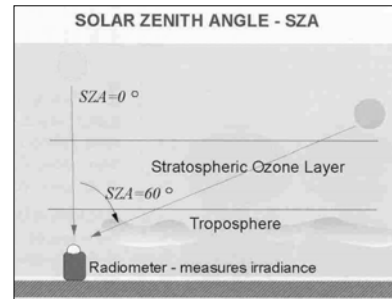
Other chlorine-containing compounds include Methyl Chloroform, a solvent, and Carbon tetrachloride, an industrial chemical. Halogen, extremely effective fire extinguishing agents, and Methyl bromide, an effective produce and soil fumigant, contain bromine. All of these compounds have atmospheric lifetimes long enough to allow them to be transported by winds into the stratosphere. Because they release chlorine or bromine when they break down, they damage the protective ozone layer.

## Ultraviolet Radiation

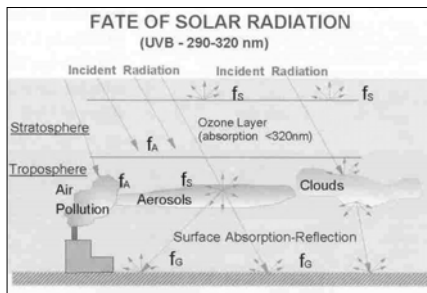


- UVC: <280), UVB: 280-320, and UVA: 320-400.
- UVA is not absorbed by ozone.
- UVB is mostly absorbed by ozone, although some reaches the Earth.
- UVC is completely absorbed by ozone and normal oxygen.

The Sun Angle determine the length of the path of radiation and the level of UV-B radiation

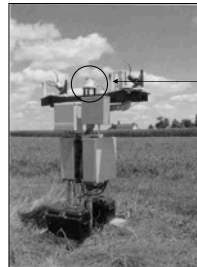


## Three Major Factors that Affect the Transmission of Solar Radiation to the Earth's Surface



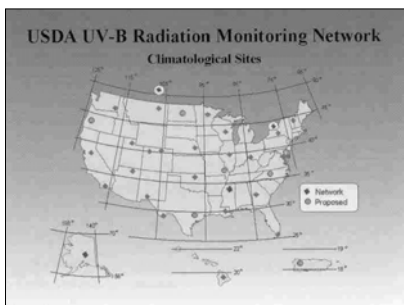
- $f_A$  = Absorption by ozone and other pollutants.
- $f_s$  = Scattering back to space by molecules, clouds, and aerosols (haze).
- $f_G$  = absorption by the ground.

## Ultraviolet Radiation - Instrumentation

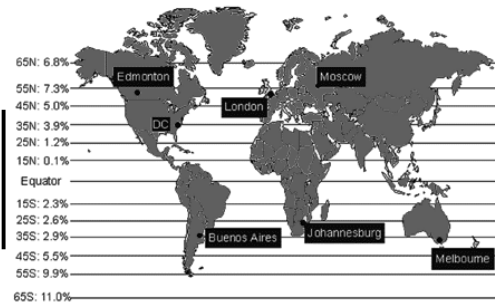


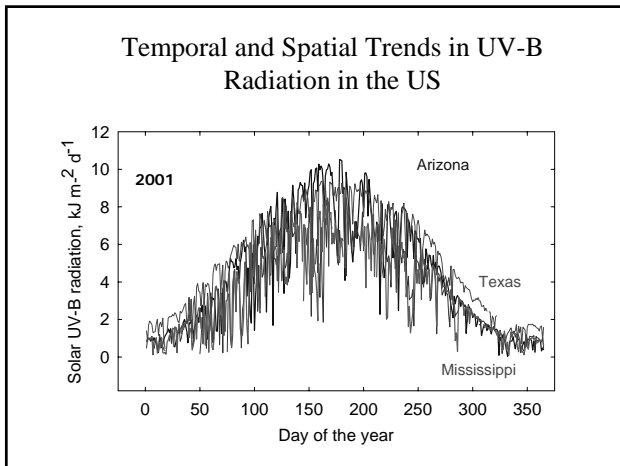
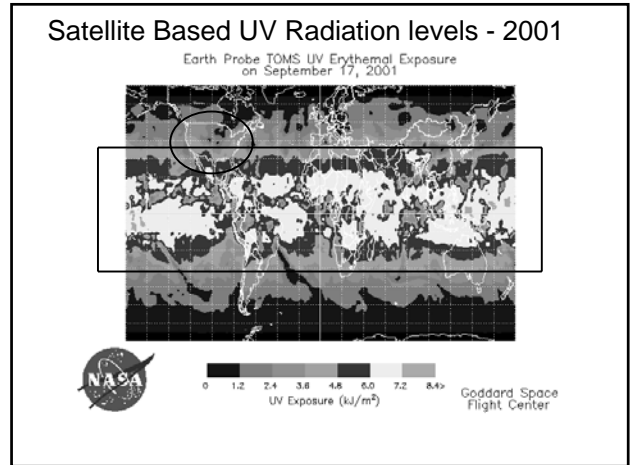
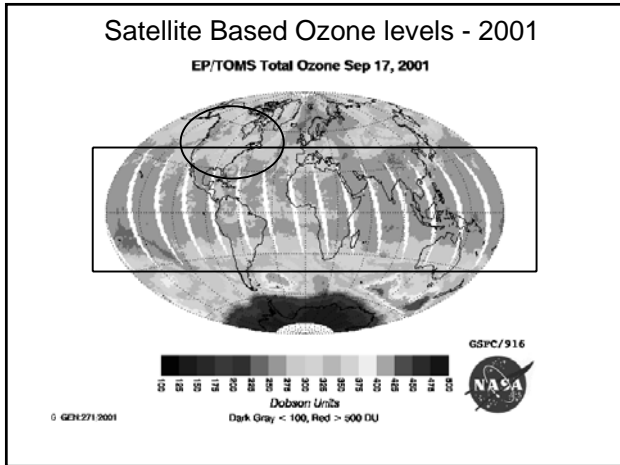
- Broadband UV meters measure ultraviolet radiation in the UV-B spectral range of 280-330 nanometers.

## Ultraviolet Radiation Monitoring Program



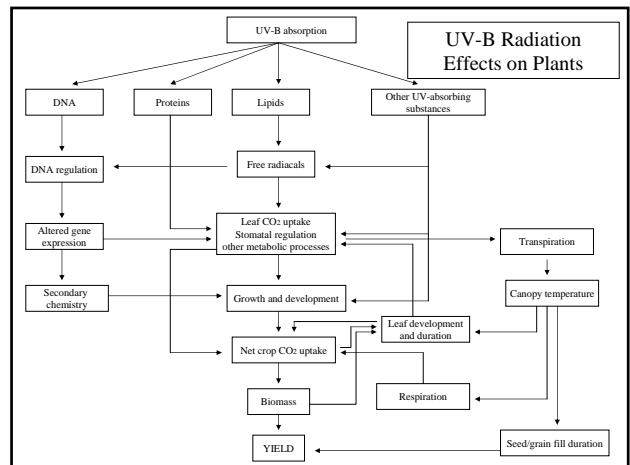
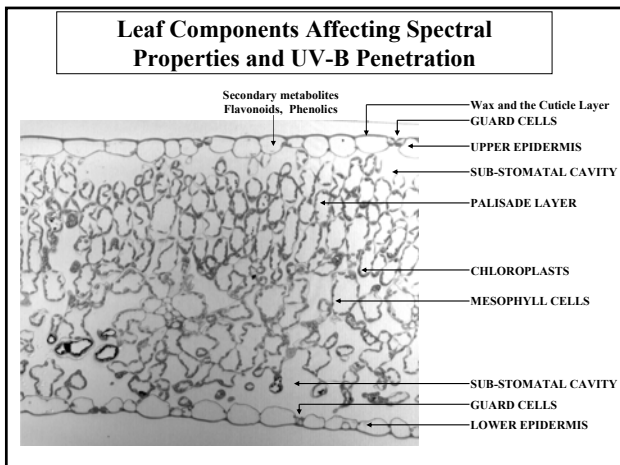
## Satellite Based Percent Change in Global UV Radiation – 1986 to 1996

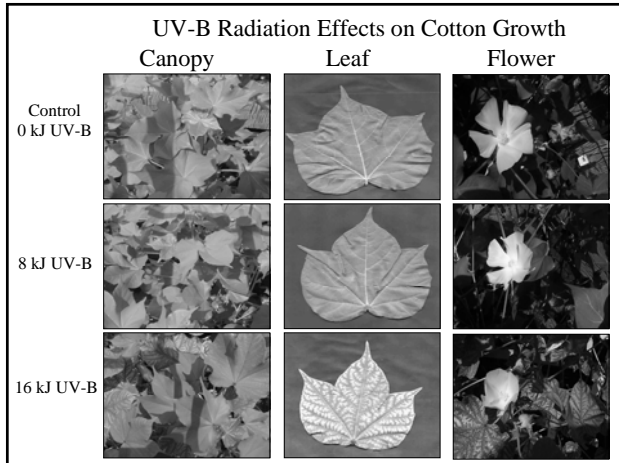




### Ultraviolet Radiation and Ozone - Plants

Current evidence suggest that several plants are sensitive to changes in ozone and UV-B light and the responses with other environmental variables are not always additive.





## Ozone and UV-B Radiation

### Suggested Reading Material

**UNEP Websites:**

- <http://www.gcric.org/UNEP2002/index.html>
- <http://uvb.nrel.colostate.edu/>

**Recent Articles:**

- <http://www.gcric.org/UNEP2002/13unep2002QAs.pdf>
- Kakani, V. G., K. R. Reddy, D. Zhao and K. Sailaja. 2003. Field crop responses to ultraviolet-B radiation: A review. *Agricultural and Forest Meteorology* 120: 191-218.