BENEFICIAL EFFECTS OF VEGETATION IN NITROGEN-CONTAMINATED SOIL AND WATER

[1]R. Karthikeyan, [2]L.C. Davis, [1]S.L. Hutchinson, and [3]L.E. Erickson
[1]Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering, Seaton Hall, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS 66506; Phone: (785)532-5580; Fax: (785)532-5825.
[2]Department of Biochemistry, Chemistry-Biochemistry Hall, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS 66506; Phone: (785)532-6124; Fax: (785)532-6121.
[3]Department of Chemical Engineering, Durland Hall, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS 66506; Phone: (785)532-4313; Fax: (785)532-7372.

Abstract

This work will review available information on the science and engineering associated with plants that are being used at nitrogen-contaminated sites. Phytoremediation may be viewed as an inexpensive method to address high nitrogen concentrations in soil and water. Most problems occur because of high concentrations of nitrate and/or ammonium; both of these forms of nitrogen will be included in the review. The chemistry of nitrogen transformations when plants are grown at nitrogen-contaminated sites will be reviewed. Fate and transport of nitrogen compounds and information on inhibition at high concentrations will be included.

Key words: nitrogen-contaminated sites, fate and transport, phytoremediation