**Wind as an ecological factor and its importance**

**Wind:**

The perceptible natural movement of the air, especially in the form of current air blowing from a particular direction.

**Importance of wind:**

* Wind has long been regarded as an important ecological factor in forest owing to the dramatic damage hurricanes can wreak, improved understanding of the mechanical effect of wind is helping forester manage their plantation and may help us to account better for local and geographical variation in forest ecology.
* Wind can be a powerful tool to helping plants and animals spread, it is especially important for plants because they are stuck in wind helps animals because many animals use wind to move around the environment from one place to another.
* Wind energy is a source of renewable energy it does not contaminant it is in exhaustible and reduce the use of fossil fuels which are origin of green house gases that cause global warming.
* Wind energy and its efficient use contributes to sustainable development.
* Wind has very important role in aiding plants and other immobile organism in dispersal of seed, spores, pollen etc.
* Wind provide dispersal for a large percentage of biomass of land plants.
* Wind energy does not pollute the air like powerplants that rely on combustion of fossil fuels such as coal or natural gas which emit particulate matter.
* Wind direction and velocity have significant influence on crop growth.
* Wind increase the turbulence in atmosphere, thus increasing the supply of carbon dioxide to the plant resulting in greater photosynthesis rates.
* Wind increase the ethylene production in barley and rice.

**Wind as an ecological factor:**

Wind is an important ecological factor especially on flat plains along seacoasts and at high altitudes in mountains. Following are the factors which make wind beneficial for environment.

* **Wind dispersal:**

Wind is the most efficient dispersal agent, most terrestrial plants depend upon it to scatter their disseminates (seed and fruit).

* **Wind pollination:**

Wind pollination is believed to be primitive form of pollination. In cool and cold climates that vast majority of trees, shrubs and herbs are wind pollinated.

* **Plant reproduction:**

Many plants rely on wind to help reproduction. This is where the male parts of plant (pollen) combine with female part of plant (pistil) to produce a new plant. This movement is done by wind.

* **Help in photosynthesis:**

Wind increases the turbulence in atmosphere, thus increasing the supply of carbon dioxide to the plants resulting in greater photosynthesis rates.

* **Beneficial for crops:**

Wind in the good amount and speed is very beneficial for crops. It can prevent crops from collecting an excess of dew created by moist in the air. During the night it prevents plants from fungal disease.

* **Animal movement:**

Wind is also an important factor for animals such as many animals use wind to move in the environment from one place to another such as spiders. Wind provides oxygen in the environment which helps animals to breathe.