

Interactive comment on “Comparative analysis of the actual evapotranspiration of Flemish forest and cropland, using the soil water balance model WAVE” by W. W. Verstraeten et al.

Anonymous Referee #2

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General:

The paper presents a good analysis forest ET for a number of stands in Flanders, simulated with a SVAT-type model. The experimental setup is well discussed, as are the model and analytical methods. Conclusions are clearly derived from data/simulation results, including recommendations for further study.

There are, however a few things in the text, not entirely clear (to me?) that need to be worked out.

Specific comments:

p.2/sec 1: is ET_act the water consumption (WU) or water use (WU) of the previous lines; see also Fig.4 (and 5).

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p.4/5: are eq (1) and (2) both necessary? Also theta is introduced (p.4) before explained (p.5)

p.6/sec 2.2: Is SMC the same as theta?

p.7: There is no point in using both ME and CD. Although the statistical definition/meaning may differ, for analytical purposes they are directly related $ME=1-1/CD$. Using either one is just as good and may yield a clearer presentation of results in section 3, and simplify table 1.

p.12: I do not understand the meaning of the term 'previous'

p.13 last para: the term 'previous' again

p.15 2nd para: the term 'previous' again

p.19: l. -7: interception _evaporation_ seems more likely

Technical/editorial:

p.5: _Bosch_ and Hewlett (1982)

p.5: "...in southern Britain was lower than _that_ of grassland."

p.8/l.2: the last one should be $K(\theta_s)$

p.9: (Klute, 1996) ??

p.11: (SAS Institute inc. 1989) ??

p.12 Van Keulen (1982) not in refs

p.13 1st para l.1: "... 2 m _below_ the soil..."

p.13 1st para l.7: "...model was _then_ used to..."

p.20 l. -6: replace 'previous' by 'former'

Fig. 1: needs consistent typeface for text

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