

CLASS PROJECT: LAND-USE CHANGE AND LEAF BREAKDOWN RATE**PART II –what did you find?**

In Excel, use the following equation to estimate K (leaf breakdown rate) for each leaf bag:

$$K = - \ln (Mass_t / Mass_{initial}) / t$$

What is the relationship between land cover and leaf breakdown rate (K)? Create graphs that show this relationship.

The Assignment

This will consist of 10% of your final grade.

Due: November 5

We are asking you to submit a ~2 page narrative about the class results. This assignment should be typed, use proper sentence and paragraph structure, and include the following items.

- **Your Name**
- **Statement of question.**
- **Graphs showing data.** Create graphs that show the relationship between land cover and leaf breakdown rate (K). The graphs should show results for both coarse mesh bags and fine mesh bags. The axes should be properly labeled. Include a figure caption that allows the reader to interpret these data.
- **Result narrative.** Using sentences, describe what you discovered.
- **Result interpretation.** What is a potential mechanism explaining your observed results? Compare the results for fine and coarse mesh bags.
- **Future directions.** What would you do to build off of this study? How might you test what mechanism(s) might be driving these data?