The Little River Experimental Watershed Water Quality Record: The First Three Decades

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Abstract
Water resource quantity and quality issues are a concern on the Southeast Coastal Plain. A water quality sampling program was initiated in 1974 on the 334 km² Little River Experimental Watershed near Tifton in south central Georgia to monitor the effects of changing land use and agricultural practices over time and to support development of simulation models capable of predicting future impacts of agricultural system changes. Stream samples were taken on a weekly or more frequent basis either by manual grab, pump grab, automated timed laboratory composite, automated timed discrete, automated flow composite nonrefrigerated, or automated flow composite refrigerated methods. Samples were measured for chloride, ammonium nitrogen, nitrate nitrogen, total nitrogen, total phosphorus, and ortho phosphate. Nutrient loads were calculated by integrating concentrations with streamflow measurements. The concentration and load data are being published and made available electronically on the world wide web to the research community and general public.

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