

Vegetation

Primary Wetland Produce

Bioma e/o Ecosistema	Valore medio di produttività biologica primaria annua (espressa in Kilocalorie/mq)
Foreste pluviali tropicali ed equatoriali	20.000
Foreste decidue delle zone temperate	4.800
Foreste di conifere (in clima temperato, tale da consentire un'attività vegetativa per tutto l'anno)	11.200
Deserti aridi	400
Corsi d'acqua delle zone tropicali con vegetazione	6.800
Corsi d'acqua delle fasce temperate con vegetazione	2.400
Canneti e stagni delle zone tropicali	30.000
Canneti e stagni delle zone temperate	17.100
Stagni salmastri temperati	12.000
Tappeti di alghe dei mari tropicali	14.000
Tappeti di alghe dei mari temperati	11.600
Fitoplancton oceanico	800

[1]

Wetland ecosystems shelter an extremely rich community of free-living, photosynthesising micro-organisms (green algae, blue bacteria, diatoms etc.) suspended in the water, which together make up the phytoplankton.

These organisms are the "producers", or in other words organisms which by chlorophyllian photosynthesis fix atmospheric carbon dioxide to produce new living material (biomass).

Phytoplankton is therefore the first step in the freshwater ecosystem food chain.

The dense and varied wetland plants increase further the photosynthesis process and consequently biomass production.

So it comes as no surprise that wetlands and ponds are generally considered the terrestrial ecosystem to have the highest **annual primary biological productivity**, i.e. the quantity of new biological material (biomass) produced in one year by the ecosystem through photosynthesis.

Source URL: <http://zoneumidetoscane.it/en/info-general/vegetation>

Links:

[1] <http://zoneumidetoscane.it/sites/default/files/Componenti/vegetaimg1.jpg>