Special Issue

Forest Fine Roots and Soil Properties

Message from the Guest Editors

Fine roots play a pivotal role in forest ecosystem structure and function. They are critical interfaces for water and nutrient uptake, carbon input into soils, and interactions with soil microbial communities. This Special Issue aims to provide a comprehensive platform for recent advances in the understanding of the dynamic relationships between fine roots and soil properties in forest ecosystems. We welcome original research articles, reviews, and case studies focusing on the following topics: (1) the effects of forest management, land use change, and climate variability on fine root dynamics and soil quality; (2) root–soil–microbe interactions in natural and planted forests; (3) methodological advances in the measurement and modeling of fine root traits; and (4) the role of fine roots in biogeochemical cycling and forest resilience under global change. We encourage contributions from different forest biomes and geographic regions to highlight both universal patterns and local adaptations. By gathering interdisciplinary research, this Special Issue will promote a deeper understanding of the belowground processes that sustain forest productivity and ecological function.

Guest Editors

Dr. Zongrui Lai

School of Soil and Water Conservation, Beijing Forestry University, Beijing 100083, China

Prof. Dr. María Fernández-Raga

Department of Chemistry and Applied Physics, University of Leon, Vegazana Campus S/N, 24071 Leon, Spain

Deadline for manuscript submissions

30 January 2026

Forests

an Open Access Journal by MDPI

Impact Factor 2.5
CiteScore 4.6

mdpi.com/si/249062

Forests
Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
forests@mdpi.com

mdpi.com/journal/forests

Forests

an Open Access Journal by MDPI

Impact Factor 2.5
CiteScore 4.6

mdpi.com/journal/forests

MDPI

About the Journal

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Forests (ISSN 1999-4907) is an international and cross-disciplinary, scholarly forestry journal. The distinguished editorial board and refereeing process ensures the highest degree of scientific rigor and review of all published articles. Original research articles and timely reviews are released online, with unlimited free access. Our goal is to have *Forests* be recognized as one of the foremost publication outlets for high quality, leading edge research in this broad and diverse field. We therefore invite you to be one of our authors, and in doing so share your important research findings with the global forestry community.

Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Giacomo Alessandro Gerosa
Department of Mathematics and Physics, Catholic University of Brescia, I-25121 Brescia, Italy

Author Benefits

High Visibility:

indexed within Scopus, SCIE (Web of Science), Ei Compendex, GEOBASE, PubAg, AGRIS, PaperChem, and other databases.

Journal Rank:

JCR - Q2 (Forestry) / CiteScore - Q1 (Forestry)

Rapid Publication:

manuscripts are peer-reviewed and a first decision is provided to authors approximately 17.1 days after submission; acceptance to publication is undertaken in 2.4 days (median values for papers published in this journal in the first half of 2025).