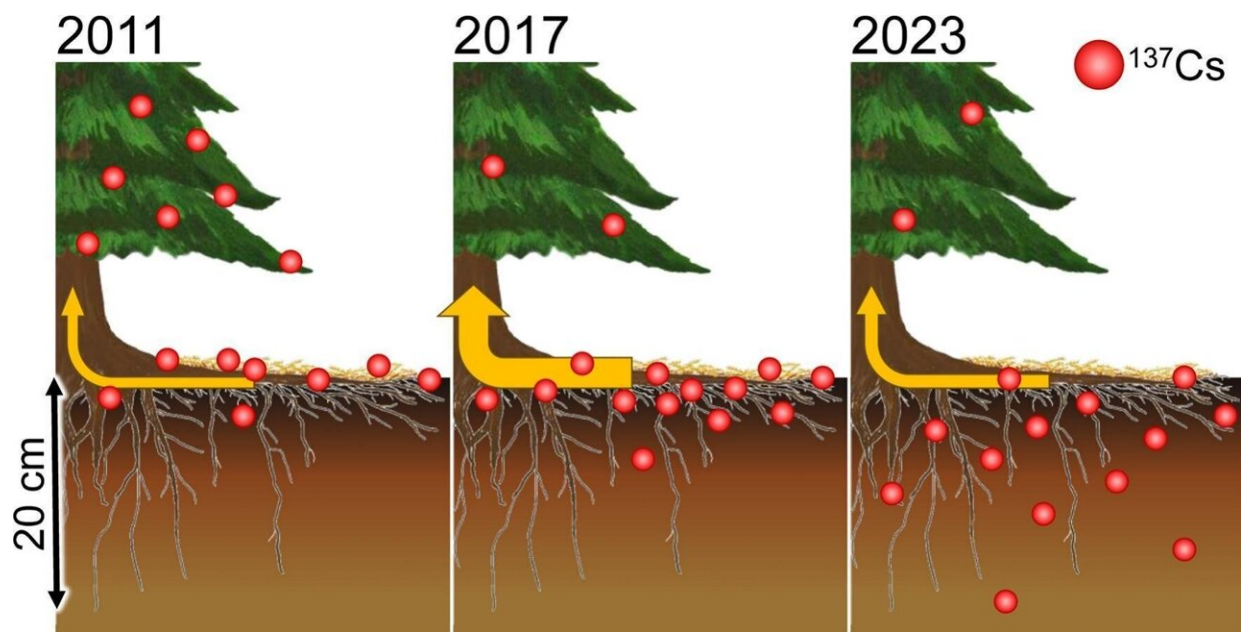


Forest monitoring reveals self-cleansing effect of radiocesium in ecosystem after Fukushima Daiichi plant accident

July 17 2024



Temporal change in ^{137}Cs absorption by cedar tree roots. Credit: *Science of The Total Environment* (2024). DOI: 10.1016/j.scitotenv.2024.174010

A forest monitoring survey conducted more than 13 years after the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant accident has revealed that the natural downward migration of radiocesium in soil exhibits a decontamination effect that reduces the air dose rate and radiocesium absorption by roots.

In the Hamadori (Pacific coast) area of Fukushima Prefecture, numerous efforts are underway to recover from the impacts of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant accident.

Although some decontamination work, such as the removal of layers of litter (dead leaves), were conducted in part of the [forest](#) area, most of the area remained contaminated by radioactive cesium (^{137}Cs). Therefore, there are persistent requests from citizens for forest decontamination.

However, using existing decontamination methods, the efficiency of reducing ^{137}Cs today, more than 13 years after the accident, remains low, rendering the development of new forest decontamination methods crucial.

For the [study](#), published in *Science of The Total Environment*, a research group at University of Tsukuba investigated ^{137}Cs dynamics in the litter and [soil](#) layers and absorptive fine roots (

Citation: Forest monitoring reveals self-cleansing effect of radiocesium in ecosystem after Fukushima Daiichi plant accident (2024, July 17) retrieved 17 July 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2024-07-forest-reveals-cleansing-effect-radiocesium.html>

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