

# Seasonal variations in infiltration in cold climate raingardens

a case study from Norway

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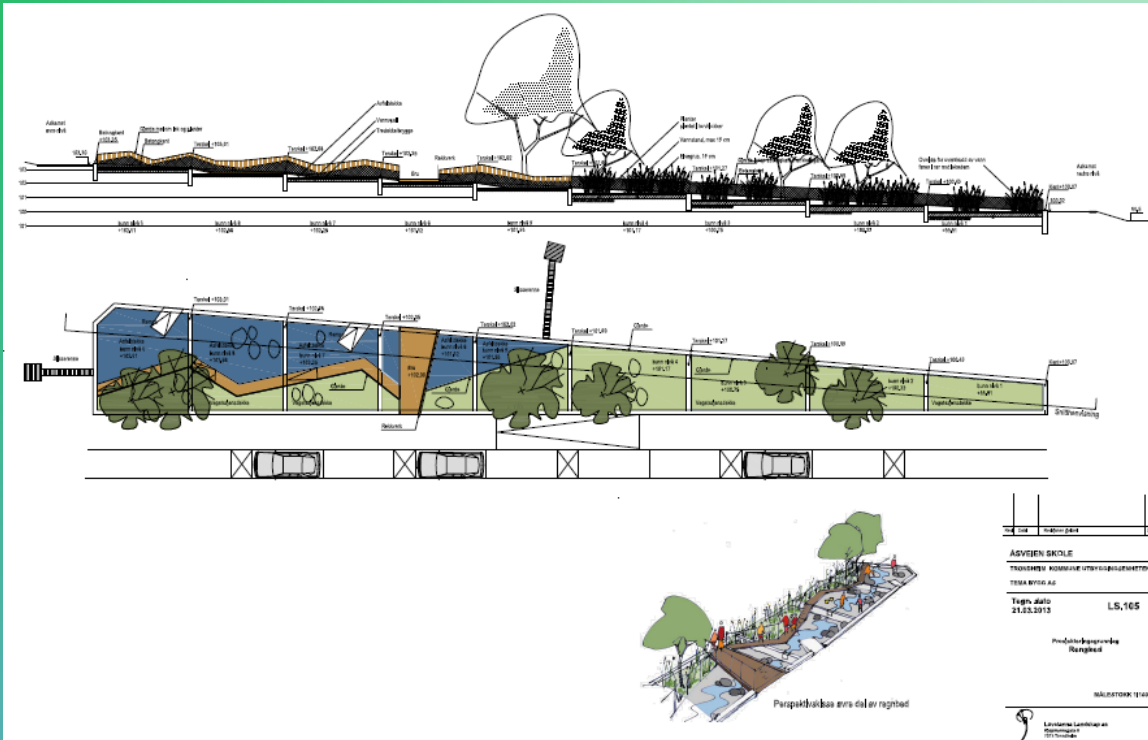
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# The objectives of the research

- Investigate how winter conditions influence the infiltration capacity in a raingarden
- Investigate necessary modifications to the MPD-method for Ksat-measurments on frozen soils
- Investigate the design implications of seasonal variations in infiltration capacity



# The Raingarden



Properties	
Established	2015
Area raingarden [m <sup>2</sup> ]	147
Areal catchment [m <sup>2</sup> ]	6938
Raingarden/reduced catchment	2.8 %
Clay	1.5 %
Silt	12 %
Sand	86 %

# Method

- Modified Phillip-Dunne (MPD)
- Saturated hydraulic conductivity ( $K_{sat}$  [cm/time])
- Measured change in water level  $\Rightarrow K_{sat}$



# Method/Results

- Problems with winter measurements
- Modified the MPD method
- Balstad Modified Phillip-Dunne (BMPD)



# Method

- Simulated a typical raingarden in Norway
- Recarga model
- Investigate the design implications of Ksat

**RECARGA Version 2.3**  
Bioretention/Raingarden Sizing Program

Units: Metric

**Planview Data**

Facility Area	1000 [m <sup>2</sup> ]
Tributary Area	10000 [m <sup>2</sup> ]
Percent Impervious	100
PerVIOUS CN	80

**Files**

Regional Ave. ET	0.3302 [cm/day]
Simulation Type	Continuous
Input File Length	152 days
Precep. File Name	Sommer14
Output File Name	r8_1_0_5_x13

Summary  Record

**Facility Inputs**

Soil Texture Infiltration Rate [cm/hr] Depth [cm]

Depression Zone

Root Layer

Loamy Sand 10 60

Storage Layer

Sand 10 20

Native Soil Layer

Clay 0.18

Underdrain

Flowrate 6.8667 [cm/hr]

Diam. 100 [mm]

Target Stayon 0 [cm] FAR [5]

Facility Area Ratio (F) [F]

Run FAR

**Results**

**Plant Survivability**  
(Less than 48 hours max. ponding is desirable)

	max	Total
Hrs. Ponded	0.25	0.25
Number of overflows	0	0

**Tributary Runoff**

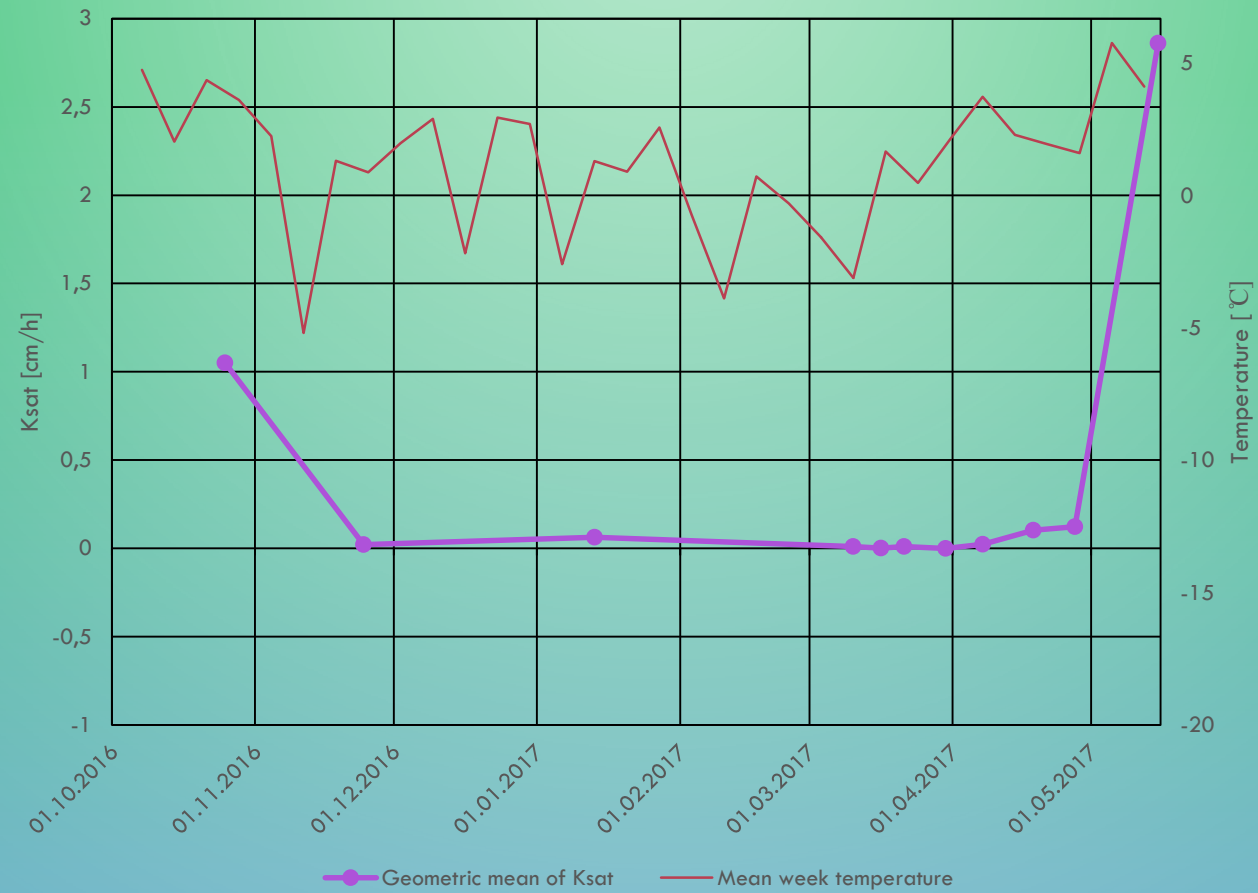
Precipitation	38.7 [cm]
Impervious Runoff	24.615
PerVIOUS Runoff	0

**Raingarden Water Balance**

	[cm]	%
Runoff	24.615	63.6047
Runoff	0	0
Recharge	14.7655	38.1538
Evaporation	0	0
Underdrain	9.9715	25.7662
Soil Moisture	-0.1203	-0.31531
Stay-on	28.7285	74.2338

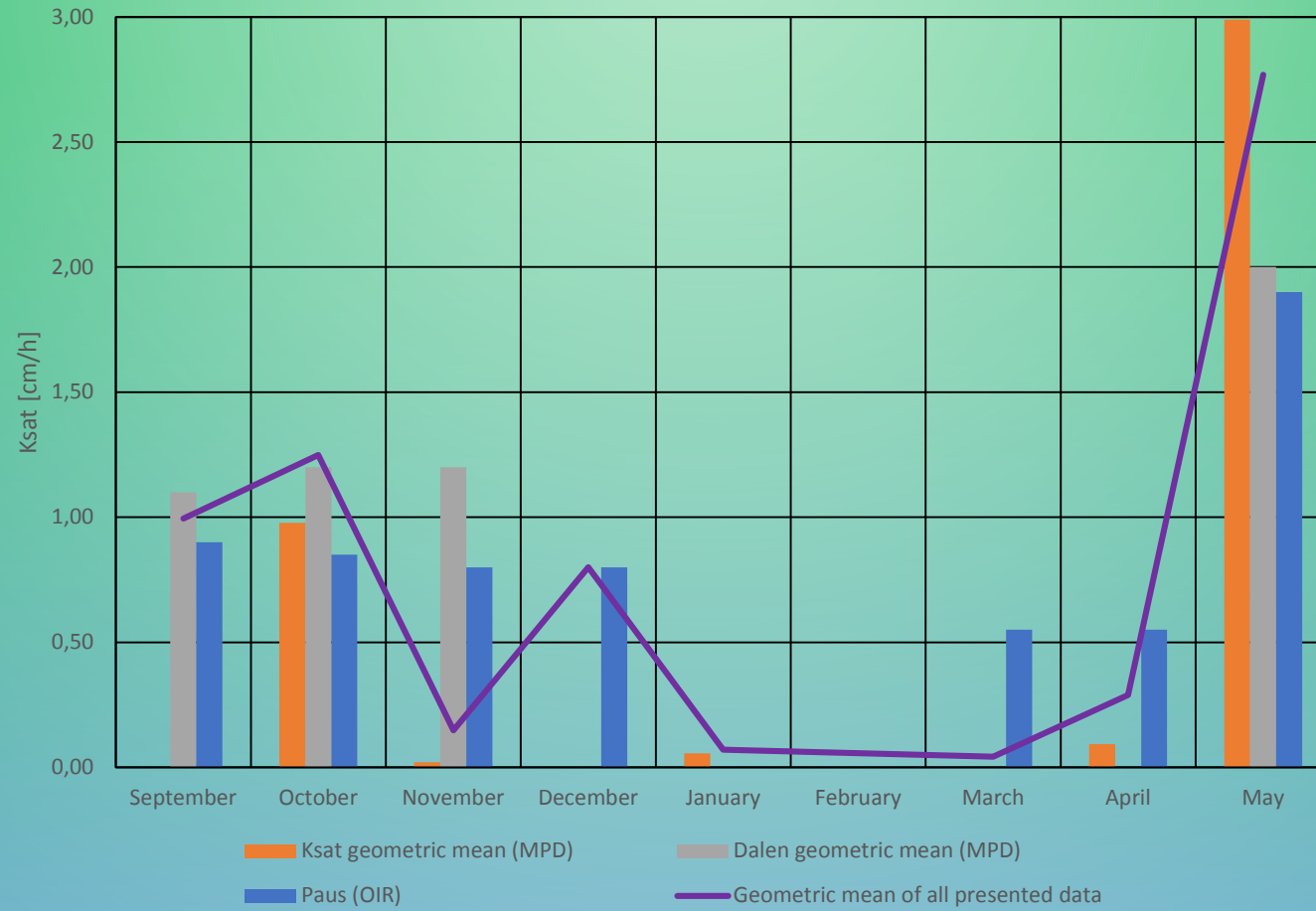
Developed by the University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Civil & Environmental Engineering Water Resources Group  
(D. Anderson, A. Dussanballant, L. Severson)

# Results

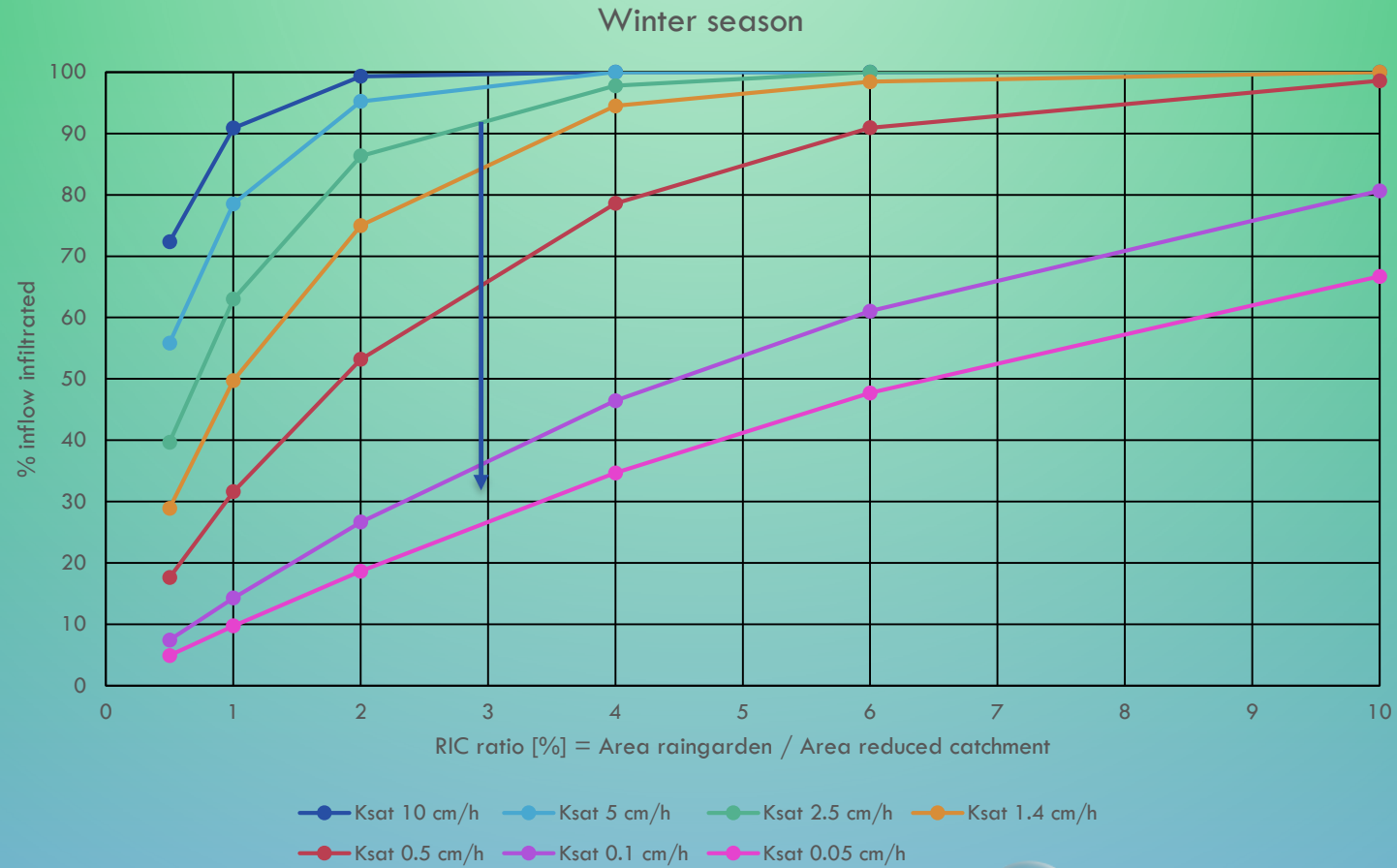




# Results



# Results



# Conclusion

- BMPD works on winter conditions
- Large variation in infiltration rate through the winter
- Low  $K_{sat}$  can be due to hard packed soil, but not the variation in  $K_{sat}$
- Infiltrates 25% of rainfall in winter season with  $K_{sat} = 0.05$  cm/h (RIC ratio = 2.8 %)



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