

## Seasons in my region (SIMR)

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### In a nutshell

This is a worldwide long-term citizen science project to learn more about the timing of the seasons and how it responds to changing conditions.

### Introduction

Seasons can be globally defined by astronomical facts. Locally however they often are greatly influenced by regional singularities as for example winds, relief, weather patterns and altitude. Many people observe nature closely and know reliable local phenomena that indicate the beginning of a season in their region. Thus the beginning of a season becomes a variable that integrates significant regional conditions and can be very sensitive to any changes.

### Method

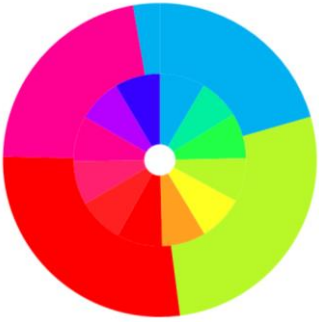

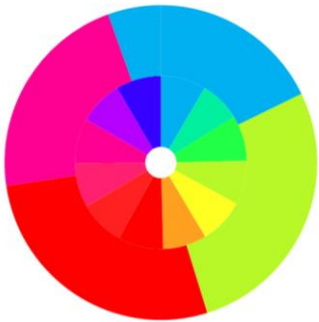
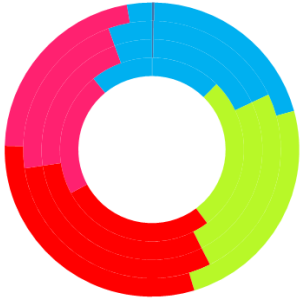
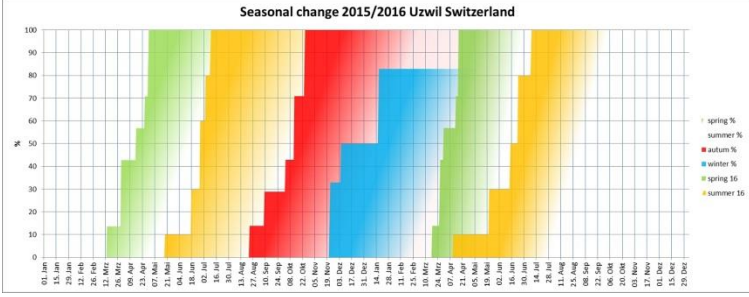
By defining indicators for seasons and their long-term observation with our senses and modern technical equipment we can document the changing conditions in a habitat and prove statements about these changes.

The method allows a synergy of scientific approaches and traditional knowledge, strengthens the attention and comprehension of observers of every age and gives ample scope for own observations and approaches, allowing the participants to be inquiringly active. The observations can give pleasure and be eye-opening, the results can be scientifically instructive and not least aesthetically attractive and thus be rewarding for scientists, laymen and outsiders.

### Investigation (5 indicators)

1) Observer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	name:	Markus Eugster				
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	e-mail:	markus.eugster@schule-uzwil.ch				
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	address:	Schöntalstrasse 2, CH-9244 Niederuzwil				
	<input type="checkbox"/>	date of birth					
2) Region		name:	Untertoggenburg				
		latitude	47.437	°	(N + / S -)		
		longitude	-9.131	°	(W + / E -)		
		altitude	580	m	a. s. l.		
3) Seasons		indicators:	loading:	date:	%	pict	
3.1 spring	1	Willows in full bloom	1	14.03.2015		3101	
	2	First chiffchaff song	2	30.03.2015		3102	
	3	Bird cherry in bloom	1	26.04.2015		3103	
	4	General bloom of cowslips	1	16.04.2015		3104	
	5	Beech leaves unfolding	2	30.04.2015		3105	
3.2 summer	1	Wild cherries ready to harvest	2	10.07.2015		3201	
	2	First wild strawberries	2	18.06.2015		3202	
	3	First thunderstorm	1	19.05.2015		3203	
	4	Air temperature above 30°C	2	04.07.2015		3204	
	5	Linden tree in bloom	3	28.06.2015		3205	

## Visualization

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Seasons in my region</b></p> 	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Seasons in my region - shorter/longer</b></p> 	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Seasons in my region - shifted</b></p> 
<p>Figure 1: possible visualization: with a pie chart</p>	<p>Figure 2: possible result: seasons get shorter / longer</p>	<p>Figure 3: possible result: seasons are shifted</p>
<p><b>SIMR: progressively updated</b></p> 	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Seasonal change 2015/2016 Uzwil Switzerland</b></p> 	
<p>Figure 4: progressively updated (25%, 75%, 75%, 100% spring, summer, ...)</p>	<p>Figure 5: Results of the test run 2015 – 2016 (<a href="http://www.seasonsandbiomes.net/viewgallery.php?img=simb91606/916061606000.jpg">http://www.seasonsandbiomes.net/viewgallery.php?img=simb91606/916061606000.jpg</a>)</p>	

## Concept

- Be a researcher: the outcome is unknown and depends on your choice
- Work on something nobody has done before
- It's not only collecting data that is used by unknown people – if used at all
- Idea: open your eyes, be curious, bring in your own ideas
- Results in the first year already, new insights in following years
- Participants can steer the process themselves

## Implementation and references

Internal test run: August 2015 – August 2016

Link: <http://www.seasonsandbiomes.net/170simr.html>

## Participate

External test run: August 2016 – August 2017

Participate in the external test run and be part of this fascinating project!

Data sheet (SIMR B5e): <http://www.seasonsandbiomes.net/600links.html>

Send data sheets to [simregion@gmx.ch](mailto:simregion@gmx.ch)

Contact: [markus.eugster@schule-uzwil.ch](mailto:markus.eugster@schule-uzwil.ch)

Official start of the SIMR project: August 2017