

The characteristics of a climax community are:

1. The climax community is able to tolerate its own reaction.
2. It tends to be mesic (medium moisture content) rather than xeric (dry) or hydric (wet).
3. The climax community is more highly organised.
4. The climax community with its more complex organisation has large number of species and more niches.
5. The organisms of earlier successional stages tend to be smaller, shorter-lived with a higher biotic potential (r-selected). In contrast, the species of climax community tend to be relatively large, long lived and with a low biotic potential (K-selected).
6. In climax community, energy is at a steady state (net primary production is zero), whereas, in immature stage of succession, gross primary production tends to be greater than community respiration, signifying accumulation of energy.
7. Immature ecosystems are temporary while in climax community the stability is high.
8. Climax communities show less broader changes and are more resistant to invasions than immature ecosystems.