Table 6.1 Key traits of different plant adaptive strategies and some of their effects on ecosystem functioning (Grime, 2003). Note that statistically significant correlations between traits (i.e. trait syndromes representing adaptive strategies) were derived from the ISP, as presented in Table 3.2 and Grime et al. (1997).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plant traits</th>
<th>Primary strategy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>C-selected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life-history</td>
<td>long</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life-span of leaves and roots</td>
<td>short</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential growth rate</td>
<td>rapid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concentration of nutrients in leaves</td>
<td>high</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concentration of carbon in leaves</td>
<td>low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leaf toughness</td>
<td>low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palatability</td>
<td>high</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leaf decomposition rate</td>
<td>rapid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seed or spore production</td>
<td>delayed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SOME EFFECTS ON ECOSYSTEMS

Primary production: high, low, moderate
Carbon concentration in vegetation and soil: moderate, high, low
Retention of nutrients and pollutants: weak, strong, very weak
Resistance to physical damage: low, high, low
Recovery from damage: rapid, very slow, very rapid