

# Envirothon NB



## Study Guide Forestry

The New Brunswick Envirothon Study Guide for Forestry will assist students and teachers in preparing for the New Brunswick Envirothon program.

Every year, more than 500,000 students, teachers and families across North America take part in the unique learning experience of Envirothon. The program engages high-school students in learning more about four main areas of the environment—soils, aquatics, wildlife and forests. Students learn in the classroom and through interactive workshops aimed at strengthening scientific knowledge of our natural ecosystems and helping develop foundational skills needed to pursue studies and careers in the environmental sciences.

The program supports students in developing:

- A scientific understanding of natural ecosystems (soils, wildlife, forests, aquatics);
- Each year a fifth topic is chosen to highlight an important and current environmental issue;
- Practical experience in resource management practices and technologies;
- The ability to apply scientific knowledge and creativity in developing innovative and sustainable solutions to major environmental challenges; and
- Stronger communication, collaboration and problem solving skills.

North American Envirothon, a program of the National Conservation Foundation, partners with 56 provinces and states that coordinate events in which students receive training in essential resource management technologies and practices such as invasive species monitoring, habitat restoration, water and soil analysis, and forest management. Students are tested on their ability to apply these practices.

## 1.0 FORESTRY LEARNING OBJECTIVES

### 1.1 Key Point 1—Forestry in New Brunswick

Knowledge of the value of Crown lands in New Brunswick and how this resource is managed.

- History of Forestry in New Brunswick
- Land tenures
- New Brunswick by the Numbers
- Forest Management Legislation and Regulations
- Forest Certification
- Duty to Consult with Aboriginal Peoples

### 1.2 Key Point 2—Forestry in Canada

Understand the value of Canada's forests to Canadians

- Canada's forests by the numbers
- Forest land ownership in Canada
- How much has Canada's forests changed over the years?
- Is timber being harvested sustainably?

### 1.3 Key Point 3—Tree Physiology and Tree Identification

Know the parts and tissues of a tree, and be able to explain how a tree grows

- Parts of a tree
- Parts of a twig
- Leaf structure and function
- Parts and Tissues of a Tree
- Dendrochronology

Understand the processes of photosynthesis and respiration

- Photosynthesis

Identify common tree species without a key, and identify specific or unusual trees using a key.

Know characteristics of the principle tree species in New Brunswick (shade tolerance, longevity, preferred habitat, and common uses and products)

- Softwood Key for Acadian Forest Species
- Hardwood Key for Acadian Forest Species
- Tree Identification <https://novascotia.ca/natr/forestry/treeid/>

### 1.4 Key Point 4—Forest Ecology

Know the typical crown classes

- Crown Classes

Knowledge of Forest Regions of Canada, particularly the Acadian Forest Region and the Boreal Forest Region.

- Forest Regions of Canada

Understand forest ecology concepts and factors affecting them, including the relationship between soil and forest types, tree communities, regeneration, competition, and primary and secondary succession.

- Forest Succession
- Shade Tolerance
- Forest Soils
- Forest Fires
- Ecosystem Services
- Forests and Earth's Carbon Balance

## 1.5 Key Point 5—Forest Management

Understand the various silvicultural terms associated with reforestation, stand improvement and stand regeneration, and harvesting

- Even-aged harvesting systems
- Uneven-aged harvesting systems
- Reforestation
- Pre-commercial thinning
- Commercial thinning

Understand the principles of annual allowable cut and stumpage as it relates to sustainable forest management

- Sustainable forest management
- Annual allowable cut
- Stumpage

Knowledge of non-timber products that our forest provide

- Non-timber forest products (NTFPs)

## 1.6 Key Point 6 -- Forest Measurements

Be able to recognize some basic features on aerial photographs and know how to measure and determine distances and area on aerial photographs.

- Aerial photographs

Know how to use forestry tools and equipment in to measure tree attributes

- Age
- Diameter
- Height

Know how to use forestry tools and equipment to measure stand attributes

- Basal area
- Density
- Stocking

Knowledge of LiDAR technology and how it is used in enhanced forest inventory in New Brunswick

- LiDAR

## 1.7 Key Point 7—Forest Health

Identify the abiotic and biotic factors in a forest ecosystem, and understand how these factors affect tree growth and forest development. Consider factors such as climate, insects, microorganisms, and wildlife

- Biodiversity
- Native Insects and Diseases
- Invasive Species

## 1.8 Key Point 8 -- Climate Change and Canada's Forests

Knowledge of the impacts of climate change on Canada's forests

- Canada's forests in a changing climate
- How our forest could look in the future
- Mitigation
- Adaptation

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## 2.0 FORESTRY IN NEW BRUNSWICK

### 2.1 History of forestry in New Brunswick

The profound relationship between New Brunswickers and their forest heritage began many centuries ago. Early aboriginal inhabitants relied on the forest for food, clothing and shelter. They developed spiritual traditions based on trees, and gathered woodland plants for medicine. European settlers used wood to make everything from barrels and furniture to buckets and sewer pipes. Trees were burned for fuelwood, charcoal and fertilizer production. Forestry is the largest industry in New Brunswick today. It has been our economic mainstay since the early 1800s. The history of forestry in New Brunswick came of age in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century and can be broken down into several distinct periods:

#### 2.1.1 Trade in great ship masts and spars (1760 – 1800)

The first, shortest, and least disruptive phase in the New Brunswick forest industries – the trade in great ship masts and spars for the British Navy – was a product of environmental conditions and the political conflict in the 1770s caused by the American Revolution

From a production standpoint, mast making was an uncomplicated industry that involved felling trees and floating them to a harbour where they could be loaded for transatlantic shipment. However, the industry was limited by the need for enormous white pines that were straight and free of defects. Large masts could exceed 100 feet in length with a diameter of 30 inches at the small end. They required a tree that was 150 feet in height and 6 feet in diameter at the stump. Masts were moved by teams of oxen in winter and almost always cut within sight of a body of water that was deep enough to float a 100-foot stick of wood weighing several tons. It was a highly selective industry that was, on the one hand, wasteful and prone to rapid resource depletion, but, on the other hand, did not impose a significant drain on the forest reserves of the colony.

Mast-making reached its peak during the 1790s and 1800s when New Brunswick annually produced up to 3,000 masts per year, a substantial proportion of the total shipped from the loyal British North American colonies.

#### 2.1.2 Coming of age (1800 – 1900)

Nineteenth-century New Brunswickers felled trees to build bridges and make railway ties, but the primary purpose was to build their houses and clear tracts of land for cultivation. Trees were used to make house frames, walls, and doors. Farmers used trees to make harrows, tool grips and handles, and toys for their children. Fishermen used wood to build boats and make oars and shipping containers. In the home, fir and spruce were used for making pails, basins, salt boxes, and butter churns, while cedar was often used for containers that did not come in contact with food.

The forests were also an important source of added annual income. It was commonplace and indeed expected that men would go work in the lumber camps starting in October and come back only the next spring.

Figure 1. This photo, shows loggers working in a camp in winter. This roundwood building was typical of those found in lumber camps.

(Photo credit: Provincial archives of New Brunswick).



Loggers who went to work in the forest could stay there for long periods - a few months at a time. Logging occurred during the winter months, when farming was impossible.

The disappearance of ice from the rivers and streams in April heralded the end of the tree felling season and the beginning of the log drive. The logs were thrown into the water and, if possible, assembled into timber rafts to be taken to a port or to a shipyard or sawmill.

Figure 2. The log drive consisted in sending the logs floating downriver, sometimes aided by drivers who kept everything moving in the right direction. Driving was hazardous work, given the ever present risk of toppling into the icy water.

(Photo credit: Provincial archives of New Brunswick).



Sawmilling was a much more appropriate industry for facilitating the transition of New Brunswick from a resource frontier to a settled colony. The higher value-added in manufacturing lumber, made the cost of transportation across the Atlantic a smaller proportion of the overall cost of production. By mid-century, there were 640 sawmills in the province.

New Brunswick's extensive river system gave loggers easy access to the interior with its rich stands of pine, spruce and hemlock. Sawmills churned out square-cut timber for domestic and overseas consumption. At mid-century, forest products accounted for more than 80 per cent of the province's total exports. Britain absorbed much of the output, but New Brunswick shipbuilders also consumed their share. Shipyards along the coasts and major rivers launched vessels to carry masts and other wood cargo around the world.

From the early 1800s sailboat construction was a major occupation in many places around New Brunswick. Several other types of boats were also built in the province during that time. They included fishing boats and freighters. Boat building was one of New Brunswick's leading industries in the 19th century. The photo shows builders at work in the interior of a boat.



Figure 3. In the mid-19th century, shipbuilding was going full steam in New Brunswick. Each ship was built to its own specifications, depending on its intended use: hauling large cargos over the seas, speeding across the Atlantic, or carrying passengers. (Photo credit: Provincial archives of New Brunswick).

Yet despite the improved infrastructure and apparently unlimited forest resources, New Brunswick's timber trade began to falter. After 1880, foreign tariffs, world recessions, competition from Pacific Coast logging, and the demise of wooden shipbuilding took their toll. The province also experienced a growing shortage of large and accessible trees, caused by years of wasteful cutting practices.

### 2.1.3 Pulp and paper mills

Pulp mills first appeared in New Brunswick in the late 1800s and grew more numerous after 1900. By 1930, the pulp and paper industry surpassed the lumber industry in terms of its economic output. Although several large pulp mills have closed in recent years, their economic output remains greater than wood products and manufacturing combined (which includes sawmills). Products produced from softwood trees in temperate forests, such as those in New Brunswick, have a long fibre length that make it very desirable because it gives strength to the products that are produced.

Pulp and paper mills created large numbers of jobs: first for building the mill and then actual production work, as well as all the logging and transportation jobs. The raw materials sought after were small softwood trees such as balsam fir and spruce whose long wood fibres are especially desirable in the production of high quality pulp products. Paper mills played a major role in the 20th-century economy of New Brunswick.

The laws of supply and demand eventually caught up with the pulp and paper industry. The advent of computers which the need for paper and newsprint, coupled with less expensive pulp from South America produced from fast-growing species, decreased the demand for pulp products from New Brunswick.

Today, the wood used to feed the pulp mills consists mainly of sawmill residues (wood chips and sawdust). Pulp mills are an important part of the supply chain as they provide sawmills with a market for their wood residues

### 1.1.4 What does the future hold?

New Brunswick's forest industry faces many challenges in the coming years. Our forests are an incredibly valuable resource that provide economic, social and cultural benefits. One advantage of forests is that they are a renewable resource that, when managed sustainably, will continue to provide benefits to society.

Society needs forest products. We need lumber to build our homes and wood fibre is used to produce products that we use on a daily basis. The Coronavirus pandemic in 2020 illustrated the need for

everyday products such as toilet paper and paper towels. More importantly, the use of wood fibre in the production of masks, gowns, swabs, and other products used by health care workers demonstrated the importance of wood products.

Finding new uses for our forest is important and the forest industry in New Brunswick has already started to explore new and innovative uses for our forest products. An excellent example is two hardwood pulp and fibre mills owned by the Aditya Birla Group and located in Nackawic and in Atholville, two forest-dependant communities in the province. The mills produce high content dissolving pulp or specialty cellulose for the manufacturing of natural-based, viscose staple fibre, used to make rayon in the apparel and home textile industry.

Research is discovering new uses for wood and its constituents that will replace products made from fossil fuels (plastics) and may also replace steel and concrete in construction. New Brunswick has just started to explore exciting new possibilities in wood technology.

The sky is NOT the limit when it comes to the potential products made from wood fibre. However, there are many surprising possibilities some that are now being produced, and some that are in the development stage.

1. **THE COSMETICS INDUSTRY:** The iridescent properties of wood fibre at the nano-level have vast potential in products such as lipstick and nail polish. Wood cellulose can also make cosmetic creams smoother and more luxurious. Sugars derived from wood can be used in a host of cosmetic products.
2. **3D PRINTING:** Wood fibre has the potential to play a major role in the largest manufacturing revolution this century providing substrate for 3D printers from lignin, an affordable and renewable by-product of pulp mills.
3. **THE ENERGY INDUSTRY:** Many forest companies have become energy self-sufficient, thus removing the need for fossil fuels, by using pulping by-products and residues such as bark, shavings and sawdust to produce greener electricity. Many mills are selling their excess energy to the grid. The Canadian sector now produces enough green energy to power all the houses in Calgary's metropolitan area.
4. **THE GREEN CHEMICALS INDUSTRY:** Bio-methanol produced as a by-product at traditional pulp mills can be used in windshield wiper fluid, plastics, glues and fabrics or be blended with gasoline to fuel cars. This is just one example of the almost endless opportunities for bio-based chemicals from wood.
5. **GREENING OTHER INDUSTRIES:** Wood-based chemicals can be developed to help the oil and mining sectors remediate tailing ponds and landfills. For example, cellulose nanocrystals can be added to drilling fluids to minimize loss in geological pores. This could represent a large-scale commercial potential.
6. **COOL COMPOSITES:** Cellulose products can be used as a substitute for glass fibres in reinforced plastics, for example for eye glass frames. Research is continuing on making carbon fibre from lignin that could be used in high-end sporting equipment such as bicycles, golf clubs and tennis racquets. Sugar streams generated from wood can be used in a range of bio-plastics for example medical applications such as bone implants.

Our history has demonstrated that how we use our forest changes over time. In order to remain competitive and satisfy the needs of society, our forest must continue to provide important forest products such as lumber and pulp and paper. More importantly, the forest must continue to provide ecological and societal functions such as clean water, clean air, and a place for recreation and spiritual fulfilment.

## 2.2 Land tenures

### Public lands:

The *Crown Lands and Forests Act* is the legal foundation of public (Crown) forest management in New Brunswick. It was proclaimed in 1982 and is administered by the Department of Energy and Resource Development. The Act divides New Brunswick's Crown land into 10 timber licenses (forest management units). Crown timber licenses are granted through 25-year forest management agreements to forest companies called Licensees. The New Brunswick government sets management goals and objectives and Licensees are evaluated on their performance by the Department of Energy and Resource Development and third-party auditors. The 10 Crown licenses are presently administered by five Licensees. Each license also has an assigned number of sub-licensee mills who have been allocated annual volumes of Crown timber products.

### Parks and protected areas:

In New Brunswick, terrestrial protected areas cover 338,450 ha or 4.7% of the province. The vast majority of this area (290,300 ha) is protected by the province as either Provincial Parks or Protected Natural Areas. The remainder is National Parks, other federal protected areas, and privately owned conservation areas.

### Private lands:

Private land in New Brunswick falls into two categories:

- (i) Industrial Freehold, which is private land owned by forestry companies; and
- (ii) Private Woodlots.

Industrial Freehold is managed on a commercial scale and most companies have had their lands certified by one of the recognized third-party sustainable forest management certification programs. Private lands must conform to the *Clean Water Act*. Under the *Crown Lands and Forests Act*, the Energy and Resource Development Minister has from time to time requested summary details of the management strategy for Industrial Freehold forest operations.

Private woodlots in New Brunswick are held by more than 40,000 separate owners. They are free to manage their woodlots as they deem appropriate and must only conform to the *Clean Water Act*. There are seven Forest Product Marketing Boards in the Province that offer services to private woodlot owners. The New Brunswick Federation of Woodlot Owners Inc. acts as the liaison between the provincial government and the seven regional Boards. Woodlot owners are subject to Board levies on the sale of forest products and owners may choose to belong to woodlot owner co-operatives, if available. The Department of Energy and Resource development and the New Brunswick federation of Woodlot Owners periodically cooperate to update the provincial private wood supply to help manage long-term sustainability.

## 2.3 New Brunswick by the numbers

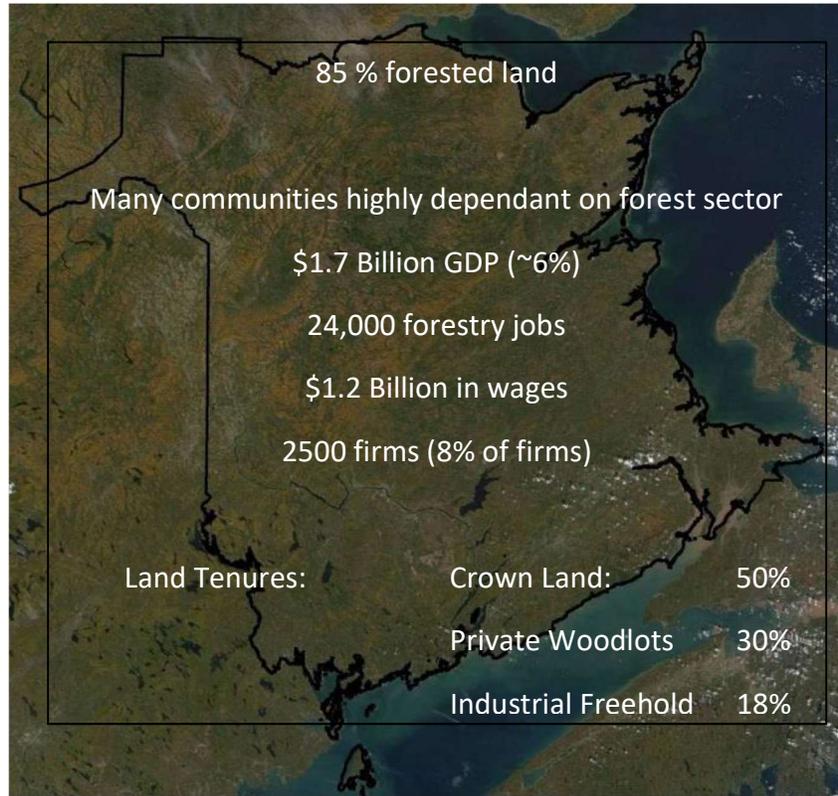


Figure 4. New Brunswick by the numbers.

## 2.4 Forest management legislation and regulations

Operational standards, policies and guidelines for forest management on Crown lands are established by the provincial government. Crown land forest operations are monitored and periodically assessed by ERD under the Results-Based Forestry system. ERD also evaluates Licensee forest management performance at five-year intervals.

Primary acts and regulations governing Crown forest land in New Brunswick:

- Crown Lands and Forest Act*
- Forest Fires Act*
- Forest Products Act*
- Clean Water Act*
- Transportation of Primary Forest Products Act*

## 2.5 Forest certification:

New Brunswick requires that Crown forest lands managed by Timber Licensees are certified under one of the following third-party forest certification systems: Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI), Canadian Standards Association (CSA) or Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). At present, all Crown lands managed by Licensees are certified under SFI. Industrial freehold lands controlled or harvested by the Licensees are also certified under SFI. In total 4.2 million hectares are certified to the SFI standard in New Brunswick.

## 2.6 Duty to Consult with Aboriginal Peoples:

The Province of New Brunswick has a duty to consult with First Nations when contemplating an action or a decision that may infringe upon proven or asserted Aboriginal and treaty rights. The New Brunswick *Duty to Consult Policy* provides direction to the provincial government for engagement and consultation with Aboriginal peoples in New Brunswick.

The Crown's duty to consult applies to resource management activities including licensing, leasing, permitting or regulating access to fish, wildlife, forests, minerals or other Crown resources. Additionally, the duty to consult policy extends to the creation, amendment or implementation of regulations, policies or procedures, including strategic and operating plans, which may have the potential to negatively impact the traditional use of Crown land and resources by First Nations.

The Government of New Brunswick is committed to fulfilling its legal obligation to actively engage in consultation with First Nations and is dedicated to building long term relationships that promote increased opportunity for economic development and participation in the natural resource sector.

## 3.0 FORESTRY IN CANADA

### 3.1 Canada's forests by the numbers

Canada's 347 million hectares (ha) of forest make up 9% of the world's forests. Twenty-four percent of the world's boreal forests are found within Canada's borders. Much of Canada's forest land is in remote, sparsely populated areas and is not under the same pressure to be cleared for agriculture or urban development as forests in many other countries. Canada has nearly 10 ha of forest land per person, more than 17 times the world average.

In order to measure Canada's forest, we need to define "forest." Canada uses the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations' definition of forest:

- land spanning more than 0.5 ha
- tree canopy covering more than 10% of the total land area
- trees growing to a height of more than 5 metres

This definition does not include land that is predominantly urban or used for agricultural purposes.

Forest land that temporarily has no trees – for example, after a natural disturbance like fire or after harvesting – is still considered forest, because trees grow back.

Deforestation occurs when forest is converted to a different land use, such as urban development or agriculture. Afforestation is the opposite of deforestation. It means that new forest is created through planting and/or seeding on land that was previously agricultural, urban, or some other non-forested land use. Between them, afforestation and deforestation are drivers of forest area changes.

### Canada's forests by numbers



Figure 5. Canada by the numbers (The State of Canada's Forests. Annual Report 2016)

### 3.2 Forest land ownership in Canada

The majority of Canada's forest land, about 94%, is publicly owned and managed by provincial, territorial and federal governments. Only 6% of Canada's forest lands is privately owned.

This means that all those jurisdictions – provincial, territorial and federal – together have the ability to create and enforce the laws, regulations and policies required to meet Canada's commitment to sustainable forest management across the country.

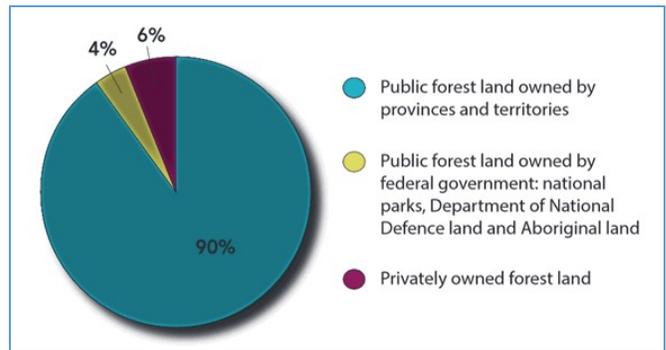


Figure 6. Land ownership in Canada (Natural Resources Canada).

#### Public forest land owned by provinces and territories: 90%

For the 90% of Canada's forests they own, the provinces and territories have many responsibilities and powers. They:

- develop and enforce forest laws;
- set up a license or timber supply agreement with forest companies that want to harvest timber in publicly owned forests;
- specify the responsibilities of the forest companies that are given access to public forests;
- monitor the activities of those forest companies to ensure that laws, lease agreements and forest management plans are complied with;
- collect royalties from forest companies for the timber they harvest from public forests; and
- manage designated protected areas, such as provincial parks and conservation areas.

Forest management planning is a key tool used to ensure that Canada's publicly owned forests remain healthy and vibrant and are managed sustainably.

#### Public forest land owned by federal government: 4%

The 4% of Canada's forests owned by the federal government are located mainly in national parks, on lands owned by the Department of National Defence, and on lands held in reserve for, or otherwise controlled by, Aboriginal Peoples.

The federal government departments responsible for regulating and managing forestry operations on these lands include:

- Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
- Department of National Defence
- Natural Resources Canada
- Parks Canada

#### Privately owned forest land: 6%

Although only 6% of Canada's forests are privately owned, they contribute substantially to the country's wood products sector.

- This category is made up of large forests owned by forest companies, notably in the provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia.
- The rest of the private ownership category includes small family-owned forests and woodlots.
- One-tenth of the timber harvested in Canada comes from private lands.

### 3.3 How much has Canada’s forested area changed over the years?

Canada’s forested area has been quite stable over the past 25 years. Between 1990 and 2016, Canada’s forest area decreased by 1.3 million ha (less than half of 1%). Figure 8 shows the causes of deforestation in Canada for the year 2010. Agriculture and industry and resource extraction accounted for 73% of deforestation while urban development, transportation and recreation accounted for an additional 17% while the portion attributed to forest operations was 8%.

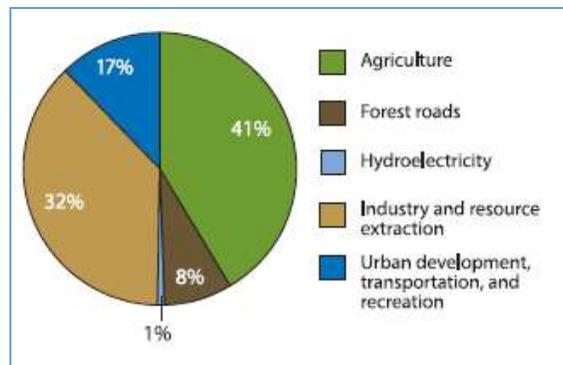


Figure 7. Causes of deforestation in Canada for 2010. (Natural Resources Canada)

While the forest area is relatively constant, forest cover within that area is more dynamic. Forest fires, insect infestations, timber harvesting, growth and regeneration contribute to the continually changing mosaic of forest cover Canada’s forest area. However, climate change could change the extent of Canada’s forest areas.

Table 1. Estimated area (millions of hectares) of forest in Canada. (Natural Resources Canada)

YEAR	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015
Forest area	348.3	348.0	347.8	347.6	347.3	347.1

### 3.4 Is timber being harvested sustainably?

Timber harvesting is sustainable in Canada thanks to strong laws, oversight and management, and the requirement that all harvested public lands be regenerated.

About 90% of Canada’s forests are located on provincial and territorial Crown lands. The provincial and territorial governments are therefore responsible for forest management. They specify an allowable annual cut, which includes both the annual level of harvest allowed on a particular area of Crown lands and the minimum forest age at the time of harvest. Regulating harvest levels in his way helps to ensure sustainability over the long term.

All provincial and territorial lands that are harvested for commercial timber in Canada must be regenerated either naturally or by planting or seeding. Each province and territory has its own regeneration standards and regulations, addressing such areas as species composition, density and stocking level, and the distribution of various forest types across the landscape.

Whether by natural or artificial regeneration, harvested areas grow back. Regeneration ensures that Canada’s forests continue to produce wood fibre for commercial uses, offer recreational opportunities and provide ecosystem services, such as storing carbon, regulating water quality and creating wildlife habitat.

## 3.0 TREE PHYSIOLOGY AND TREE IDENTIFICATION

### 3.1 Parts of a tree

#### Crown

The crown, which consists of the leaves and branches at the top of a tree, plays an important role in filtering dust and other particles from the air. It also helps cool the air by providing shade and reduces the impact of raindrops on the soil below.

The leaves are the food factories of a tree. They contain chlorophyll, which facilitates photosynthesis and gives leaves their green colour. Through a process called photosynthesis, leaves use the sun's energy to convert carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and water from the soil into sugar and oxygen. The sugar, which is the tree's food, is either used or stored in the branches, trunk and roots. The oxygen is released into the atmosphere.

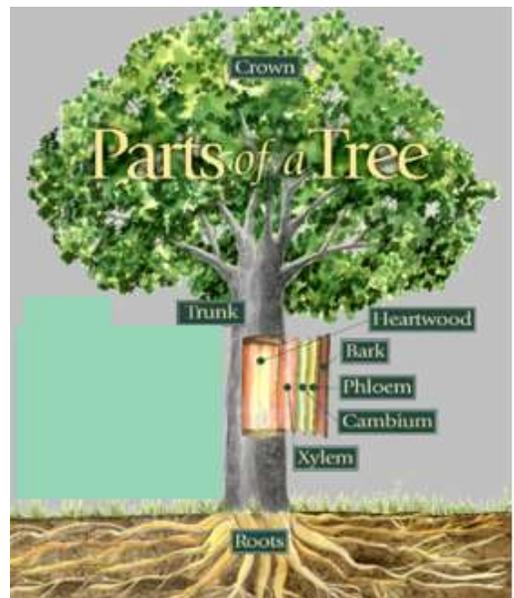


Figure 9. Parts of a tree (North Carolina Forestry Association)

#### Roots

A tree's roots absorb water and nutrients from the soil, store sugar and anchor the tree upright in the ground. All trees have lateral roots that branch into smaller and smaller roots and usually extend horizontally beyond the branch tips. Some trees have a taproot that reaches down as far as 15 feet. Each root is covered with thousands of root hairs that make it easier to soak up water and dissolved minerals from the soil. The majority of the root system is located in the upper 12 to 18 inches of soil because the oxygen that roots require to function properly is most abundant there.

#### Trunk/Stem

The trunk, or stem, of a tree supports the crown and gives the tree its shape and strength. The trunk consists of four layers of tissue. These layers contain a network of tubes that runs between the roots and the leaves and acts as the central plumbing system for the tree. These tubes carry water and minerals up from the roots to the leaves, and they carry sugar down from the leaves, trunk and roots.

**Heartwood** As a tree grows, older xylem cells in the center of the tree become inactive and die, forming heartwood. Because it is filled with stored sugar, dyes and oils, the heartwood is usually darker than the sapwood. The main function of the heartwood is to support the tree.

**Xylem/Sapwood** The xylem, or sapwood, comprises the youngest layers of wood. Its network of thick-walled cells brings water and nutrients up from the roots through tubes inside of the trunk to the leaves and other parts of the tree. As the tree grows, xylem cells in the central portion of the tree become inactive and die. These dead xylem cells form the tree's heartwood.

**Cambium** The cambium is a very thin layer of growing tissue that produces new cells that become either xylem, phloem or more cambium. Every growing season, a tree's cambium adds a new layer of xylem to its trunk, producing a visible growth ring in most trees. The cambium is what makes the trunk, branches and roots grow larger in diameter.

**Phloem/Inner Bark** The phloem or inner bark, which is found between the cambium and the outer bark, acts as a food supply line by carrying sap (sugar and nutrients dissolved in water) from the leaves to the rest of the tree.

**Bark** The trunk, branches and twigs of the tree are covered with bark. The outer bark, which originates from phloem cells that have worn out, died and been shed outward, acts as a suit of armor against the world by protecting the tree from insects, disease, storms and extreme temperatures. In certain species, the outer bark also protects the tree from fire.

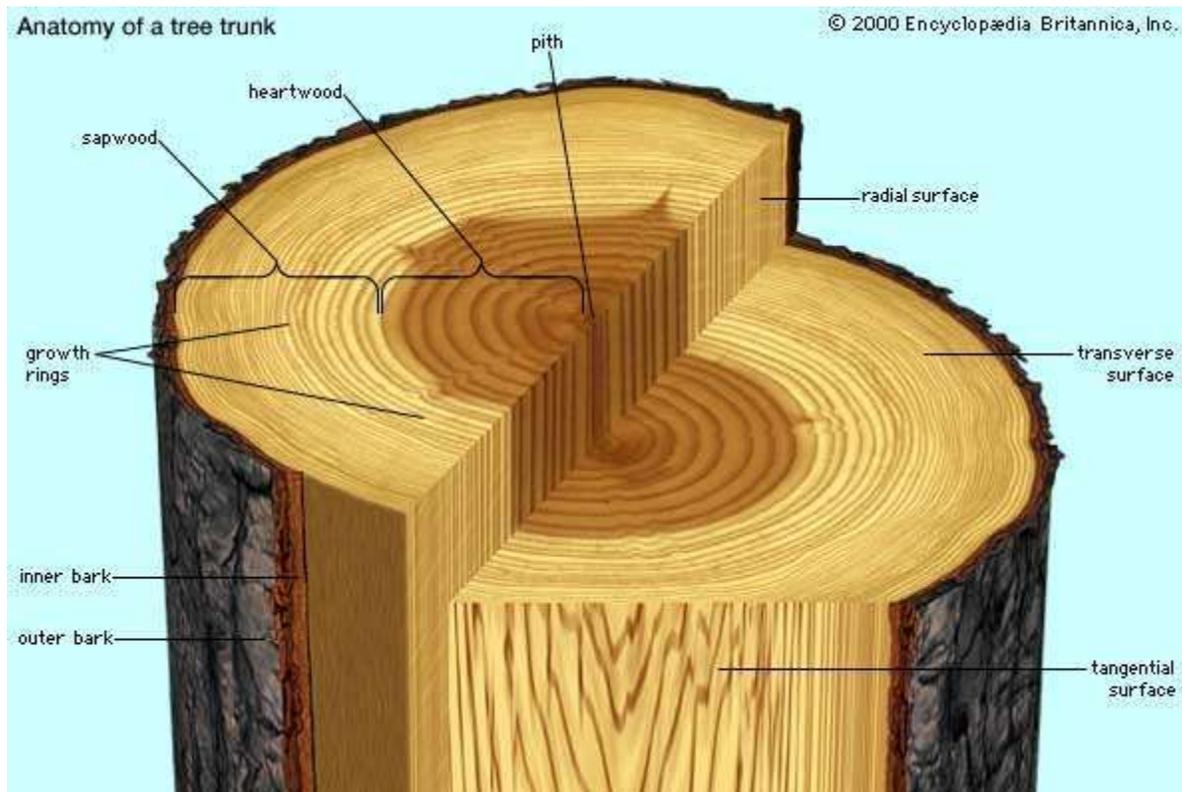


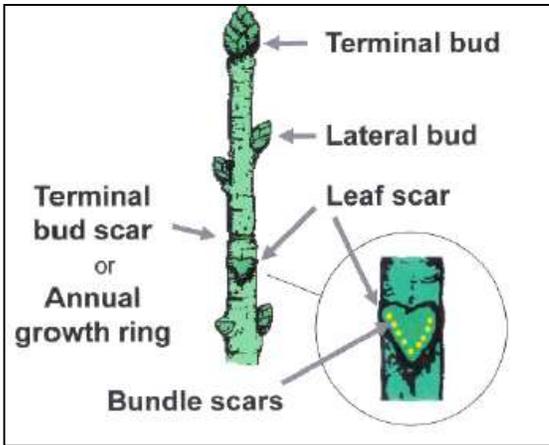
Figure 10. Transverse slice of tree trunk, depicting major features visible to the unaided eye in transverse, radial, and tangential sections. (*Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc.*)

### 3.2 Parts of a twig

**Terminal bud:** Bud at the tip of a stem.

**Lateral bud:** bud that grows from the leaf axils on the side of a stem.

**Leaf scar:** Mark left on stem where leaf was attached. Often used in woody plant identification.



**Bundle scar:** A small mark on a leaf scar indicating a point where a vein from the leaf was once connected with the stem. Used in woody plant identification.

**Lenticel:** Pores on the twig that allow for gas exchange

**Terminal bud scale scars or annual growth rings:** Marks left on stem from the terminal bud scales in previous years. Terminal bud scale scars are an external measure of annual growth. Therefore, they are important in assessing plant vigor.

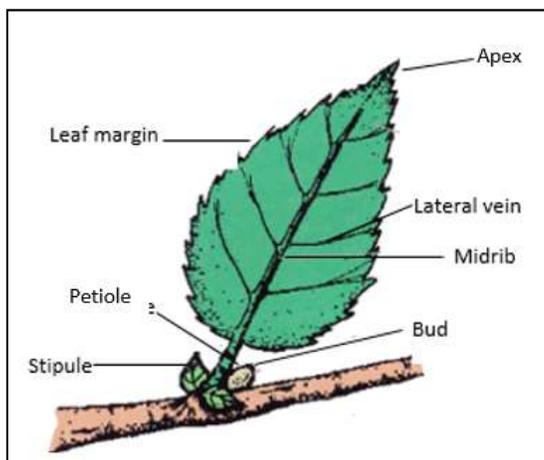
Figure 11. Parts of a twig. (Colorado State University Extension)

### 3.3 Leaf function and structure

Leaves are the powerhouse of plants. Chlorophyll is the molecule in leaves that uses the energy in sunlight to turn water (H<sub>2</sub>O) and carbon dioxide gas (CO<sub>2</sub>) into sugar and oxygen gas (O<sub>2</sub>). This process is called photosynthesis.

**Apex** -- The outer end of the leaf opposite the petiole

**Lateral vein** – veins provide support for the leaf and transport both water and minerals (via xylem) and food energy (via phloem) through the leaf and on to the rest of the plant.



**Midrib** – the central rib of a leaf, usually continuous with the petiole

**Bud:** forms at base of leaf during late summer

**Stipule** – a small leaf-like appendage to a leaf, typically borne in pairs at the base of the leaf stalk

**Petiole** – attaches the leaf to the plant, also called leaf stalk

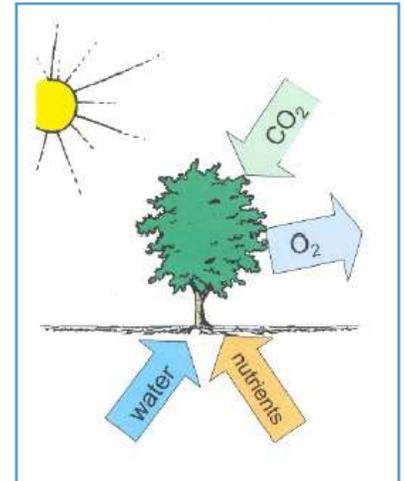
**Margin** – the outer part of a leaf

Figure 12. Parts of a leaf (Colorado State University Extension)

### 3.4 Photosynthesis

Photosynthesis is the process of capturing light energy and converting it to sugar energy, in the presence of chlorophyll using carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and water (H<sub>2</sub>O).

A primary difference between plants and animals is the plant's ability to manufacture its own food. In **photosynthesis**, carbon dioxide from the air and water from the soil react with the sun's energy to form **photosynthates** (sugars, starches, carbohydrates, and proteins) and release oxygen as a byproduct. [Figure 1]



Photosynthesis literally means *to put together with light*. It occurs only in the **chloroplasts**, tiny sub-cellular structures contained in the cells of leaves and. A simple chemical equation for photosynthesis is given as follows:

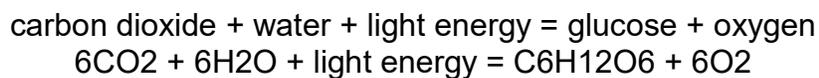


Figure 13. In photosynthesis, the plant uses water and nutrients from the soil and carbon dioxide from the air, with the sun's energy to create photosynthates. Oxygen is released as a by-product. (Colorado State University Extension)

This process is directly dependent on the supply of water, light, and carbon dioxide. Limiting any **one** of the factors on the left side of the equation (carbon dioxide, water, or light) can limit photosynthesis. For example, a severe drought can reduce photosynthesis and result in a decrease in plant vigor and growth.

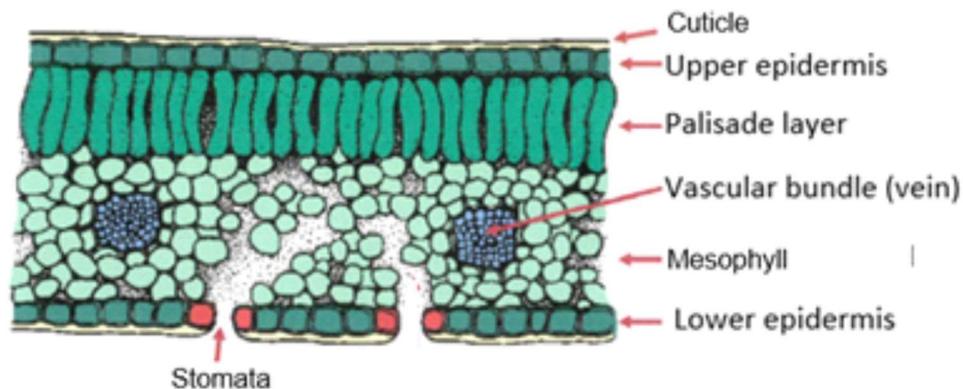
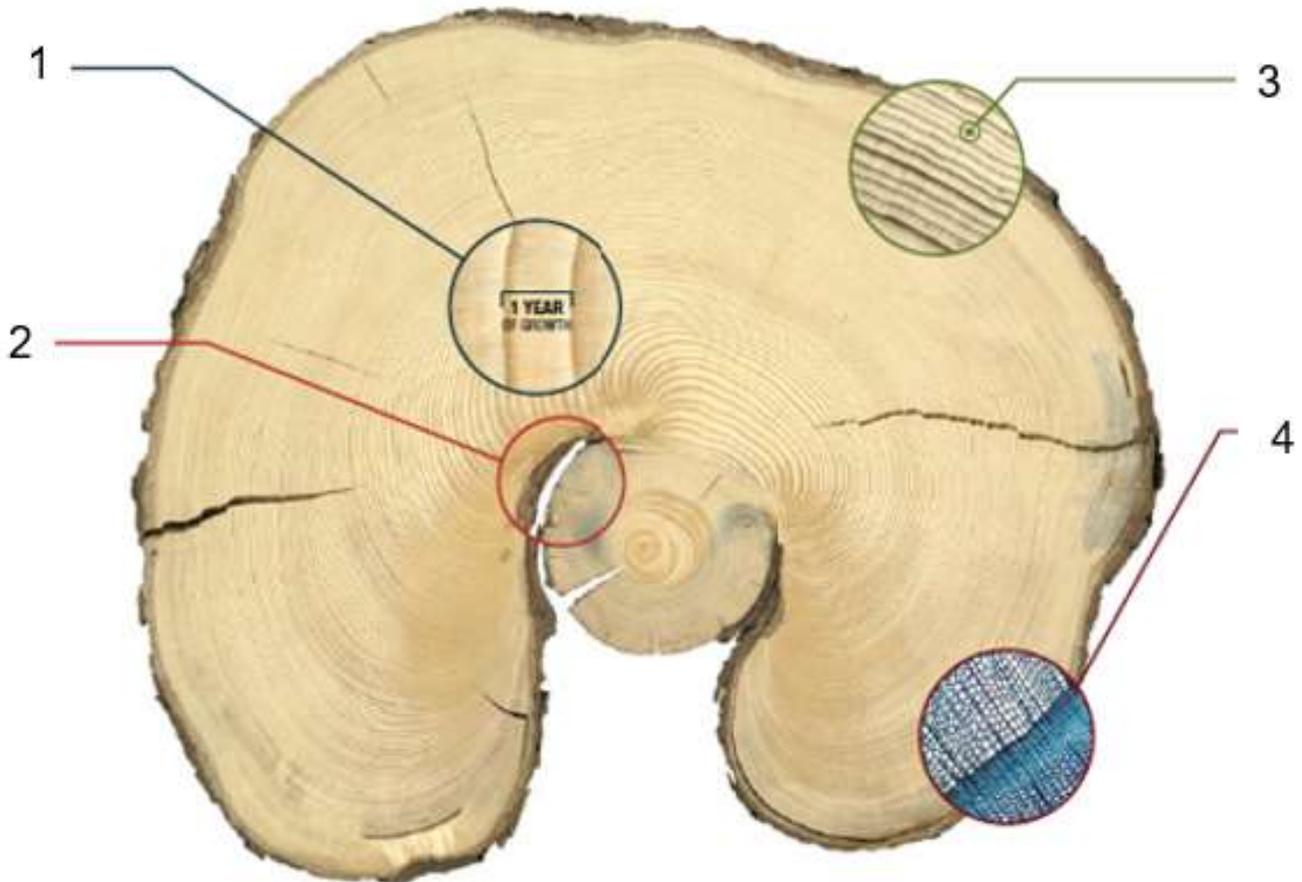


Figure 14. Leaf cross-sectional view with stomata. (Colorado State University Extension)

- Cuticle:** Waxy protective outer layer of epidermis that prevents water loss from leaves, green stems, and fruits. The amount of cutin or wax increases with light intensity.
- Epidermis:** Outer layer of tissues
- Palisade layer:** Layer of tissues filled with chloroplasts
- Vascular bundle:** Xylem and phloem tissues, commonly known as leaf veins.
- Mesophyll:** Layer of tissues that facilitates movement of oxygen, carbon dioxide, and water vapour
- Stomata:** Natural openings in leaves and herbaceous stems that allow for gas exchange (water vapor, carbon dioxide and oxygen) and plant cooling.

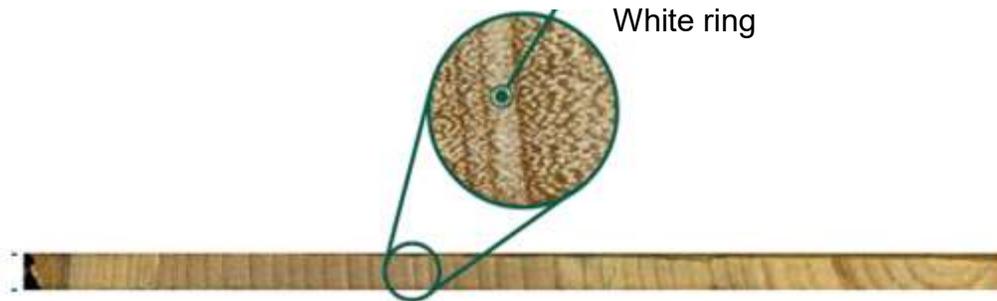
### 3.5 Dendrochronology

The science of tree ring analysis is called dendrochronology. Examining the rings in tree cross-sections from cookies or sample cores (which are used more often) can tell you a lot about a tree, its history and the environmental conditions it grew under. Like this 218-year-old black spruce tree which began life as a seedling in the boreal forest in the late 1700s.



1. Tree age – As trees grow, they form rings made up of a band of light wood produced in the spring (earlywood) and a band of dark wood that forms later in the summer (latewood). This means the wood produced in one year can be measured by the width of one ring of light and dark wood. Counting the number of rings from the outer bark to the centre of the tree – or pith – tells you how old a tree is and is useful for dating historical events in the life of the tree and its surroundings.
2. Fire history – Fire scars occur where a portion of the growing part of the trunk, known as the cambium, is damaged by fire and the tree attempts to cover the wound with new growth. Some fire scars completely heal over, but others remain open (unhealed) due to repeated fires or significant decay of the burned wood – like this one dating back to a fire in 1868, one year after Confederation.

3. Insect outbreaks – Severe or repeated defoliation – the stripping of a tree’s leaves or needles — by insects such as the forest tent caterpillar is stressful to the tree and causes a marked slowing of growth that can be seen in the pale annual growth ring of this trembling aspen core. This “white ring” is of lower density than the wood the tree produced before defoliation and after recovery. Studying the occurrence of white rings in many trees helps scientists better understand the impacts of forest tent caterpillar outbreaks on aspen forest productivity, how insect populations change over time and how ecosystems respond to outbreaks.



Trees are rarely cut down for tree ring analysis. Instead, a borer is used to extract a core sample of wood about 3 to 10 millimetres in diameter, extending from the bark to the centre of the tree. This trembling aspen was about 60 years old when sampled.

4. Climatic conditions – Trees with the right amount of sunlight, rainfall and ideal temperatures grow faster and produce wider growth rings than trees under stress. Drought, disease, temperatures that are too hot or too cold and shading or crowding by other trees can slow down tree growth, leaving narrow rings. Studying rings from many trees across the landscape can help scientists understand how the climate may be changing and affecting forest ecosystems over time. The same narrow ring in this tree can be seen in hundreds of other tree samples, suggesting dry soil conditions in late summer of 1984 across parts of Canada’s eastern boreal forest.
5. Wood fibre quality – Wood characteristics like density, sound absorption, strength and stiffness are important qualities that determine the suitability of wood for specific products or end uses, from guitars to engineered wood products and pulp used in packaging and textiles. Microscopic views of tree rings – like this one magnified 57 times its normal size – can show irregularities in cells caused by water stress or bending caused by wind and snow. These irregularities can make wood inflexible, weak or resistant to surface treatment and potentially limits its use for some products. The ability to identify wood fibre qualities of trees before harvest allows forest managers to make better business decisions about what products can be made from the trees growing in a specific forest, and what trees are best suited to plant for future forest products.

### 3.6 Tree Identification

#### 3.6.1 Twig and Cone Key for Softwood Trees of the Acadian Forest Region

<b>1. Leaves not needle-like.....</b>	<b>2</b>
2. Small, flat, scale-like leaves, soft, yellow-green in color, 1-2 mm long; cones egg-shaped, 7-12 mm long. .....	<u>Eastern white cedar</u>
<b>1. Leaved needle-like.....</b>	<b>3</b>
3. Needles in bundles or groups.....	4
4. Two needles in each bundle.....	5
5. Needles straight, 10-16 cm long, needles will break or snap when bent; cones roundish, 4-7 cm long, cone scales thicker at tips.....	<u>Red pine</u>
5. Needles yellow-green, 2-4 cm long, divergent (split apart) and twisted; cones 3-7 cm long, serotinous, usually curved.....	<u>Jack pine</u>
4. More than two needles in each bundle.....	6
6. Needles in bundles of 5, 10-15 cm long, soft, blue-green; cones 8-20 cm long, cone scales broader towards tip.....	<u>Eastern white pine</u>
6. Needles 15-60 per bundle, soft, bluish-green color, deciduous; cones roundish, 10-15 mm long, attached to twig by a curved stalk.....	<u>Tamarack</u>
3. Single needles.....	7
7. Needles flattened (do not roll between fingers).....	8
8. Needles glossy green above with two white bands and three darker bands below, attached to twig by short stalk; cones egg-shaped, 12-20 mm long .....	<u>Eastern hemlock</u>
8. Needles dark green above with two white lines and one dark line below. Fragrant odor when crushed; cones cylindrical, erect, 4-10 cm long, break apart when seeds are mature leaving a vertical spike.....	<u>Balsam fir</u>
7. Needles 4-sided (roll between fingers).....	9
9. Needles yellow-green, curved; cones are egg-shaped, measure 3-5 cm long, cone scales stiff, margin usually not serrated.....	<u>Red spruce</u>
9. Needles straight, dull greyish-green; cones measure 2-3 cm long, cone scales toothed or serrated and brittle.....	<u>Black spruce</u>
9. Needles are straight, stiff, pungent odor when crushed, bluish-green; cones 3-6 cm long, cone scales are pliable when squeezed .....	<u>White spruce</u>



Balsam fir



Tamarack



Eastern hemlock



White spruce



Black spruce



Red spruce



Jack pine



White pine



Red pine



Eastern white cedar (cedar)

### 3.6.2 Leaf Key for Hardwood Trees of the Acadian Forest Region

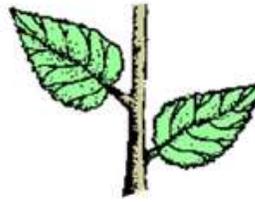
<b>1. Leaves opposite</b> .....	<b>2</b>
2. Leaf simple.....	3
2. Leaf compound.....	6
3. Five distinct lobes, leaf edge wavy, leaf sinuses “u-shaped”.....	<u>Sugar maple</u>
3. Three to five lobes, leaf edge toothed.....	4
4. Underside of leaf not silvery, leaf edge double toothed.....	<u>Striped maple</u>
4. Underside of leaf silvery.....	5
5. Leaf sinuses deeply lobed and “u”-shaped.....	<u>Silver maple</u>
5. Leaf sinuses notched “v-shaped”.....	<u>Red maple</u>
6. Leaf compound.....	7
7. 5-9 leaflets, leaflets stalked, egg-shaped to lance-shaped leaflets, leaf edge smooth or wavy.....	<u>White ash</u>
7. 7-11 leaflets, leaflets not stalked, finely and sharply toothed leaf edge.....	<u>Black ash</u>
7. 5-9 leaflets on a hairy central stalk, hairy underneath, leaf edge smooth towards base of leaf and toothed towards tip.....	<u>Green ash</u>
<b>1. Leaves not opposite</b> .....	<b>8</b>
8. Leaf compound, 11 to 17 finely toothed leaflets.....	<u>Butternut</u>
8. Leaf simple.....	9
9. Leaf edge double toothed.....	10
9. Leaf edge not double toothed.....	11
10. Leaf shape triangular.....	<u>Gray birch</u>
10. Leaf shape not triangular.....	12
12. Underside of leaf rough, leaf base asymmetrical.....	<u>White elm</u>
12. Underside of leaf not rough but may be hairy.....	13
13. 7-9 veins, leaf edges coarsely double toothed except near stem.....	<u>White birch</u>
13. 9-13 veins, leaf edges coarsely double toothed almost to stem.....	<u>Yellow birch</u>
13. Leaf stem short, finely double toothed, leaf feels thin.....	<u>Ironwood</u>
11. Leaf stem (petiole) flat.....	14
11. Leaf stem (petiole) not flat.....	15
14. Large teeth.....	<u>Largetooth aspen</u>
14. Small teeth.....	<u>Trembling aspen</u>
15. Leaf lobed.....	16
15. Leaf not lobed.....	17
16. Several pointed teeth on each lobe.....	<u>Red oak</u>
16. Lobes rounded (not pointed).....	<u>Bur oak</u>
17. Leaf edge coarsely toothed.....	<u>American beech</u>
17. Leaf edge fine toothed.....	18
18. Leaf heart-shaped.....	<u>Basswood</u>
18. Leaf egg-shaped, dark green, shiny, rusty blotches on underside of leaf.....	<u>Balsam poplar</u>



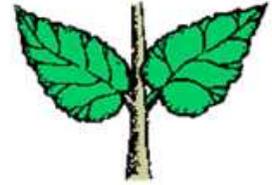
Simple leaf



Compound leaf



Leaves alternate



Leaves opposite

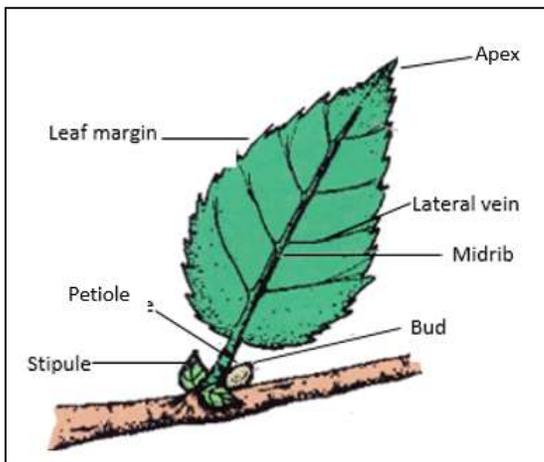
Simple leaf: A single blade attached to the stem by a petiole (birches, poplars)

Compound leaf: Leaf composed of several leaflets attached to the stem by a petiole (ashes)

Leaves alternate: Arranged in staggered fashion along stem (birches)

Leaves opposite: Pair of leaves arranged across from each other on stem (maple)

### PARTS OF A LEAF



### LEAF FORMS



Oval



Lanceolate



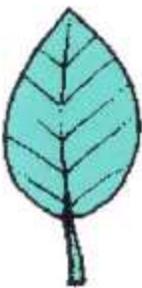
Cordate

Ovate : Leaf is broadest below the middle and about 2x as long as the width (egg-shaped)

Lanceolate: leaf is 3x or more longer than width and broadest below the middle

Cordate: Heart-shaped En forme de cœur :

### LEAF MARGINS



Entire



Crenate



Dentate



Doubly serrate



Incised



Lobed

Entire: leaf edge is smooth

Crenate: leaf edge has blunt, rounded teeth

Dentate: leaf has triangular or tooth-like edges

Doubly serrate: edges with saw like teeth that have even smaller teeth within the larger ones

Incised: leaf margins have deep, irregular teeth

Lobed: leaf edges are deep and rounded

## 4.0 FOREST ECOLOGY

### 4.1 Crown classes

**Crown class** is a term used to describe the position of an individual tree in the forest canopy. In the definitions below, “general layer of the canopy” refers to the bulk of the tree crowns in the size class or cohort being examined. Crown classes are most easily determined in even aged stands, as depicted in Figure 15. In an uneven aged stand, a tree’s crown would be compared to other trees in the same layer. Kraft’s Crown Classes are defined as follows (Smith et al. 1997 and Helms 1998 modified for clarity):

- **Dominant trees:** These crowns extend above the general level of the canopy. They receive full light from above and some light from the sides. Generally, they have the largest, fullest crowns in the stand.
- **Codominant trees:** These crowns make up the general level of the canopy. They receive direct light from above, but little or no light from the sides. Generally, they are shorter than the dominant trees.
- **Intermediate trees:** These crowns occupy a subordinate position in the canopy. They receive some direct light from above, but no direct light from the sides. Crowns are generally narrow and/or one-sided, and shorter than the dominant and codominant trees.
- **Suppressed trees (overtopped trees):** These crowns are below the general level of the canopy. They receive no direct light. Crowns are generally short, sparse, and narrow.



Figure 15. An illustration of crown classes. “D” = Dominant; “C” = Codominant; “I” = Intermediate and “S” = Suppressed. (Creative Commons).

Crown classes are a function of tree vigor, tree growing space, and access to sunlight. These in turn are influenced by stand density and species shade tolerance.

Crown class distribution can also infer overall vigor of an even aged stand. If most trees are in the intermediate crown class, then the stand is likely too crowded and the trees are stagnated. A stand with nearly every tree in the dominant category is either very young, with all of the trees receiving plenty of sun, or very sparse and may be considered “understocked.” A typical even aged stand has the majority of trees in the codominant class, and the fewest trees in the suppressed class. The relative ratios of dominant and intermediate classes are generally a function of species composition.

## 4.2 Forest Regions of Canada

A **forest region** is defined as a major geographic belt or zone characterized by a broad uniformity in physiography and in the composition of dominant tree species. Different forest regions exist because of differences in soil types, topography, climate and precipitation. Canada has 8 forest regions, each geographically characterized by dominant species and stand types of vegetation.

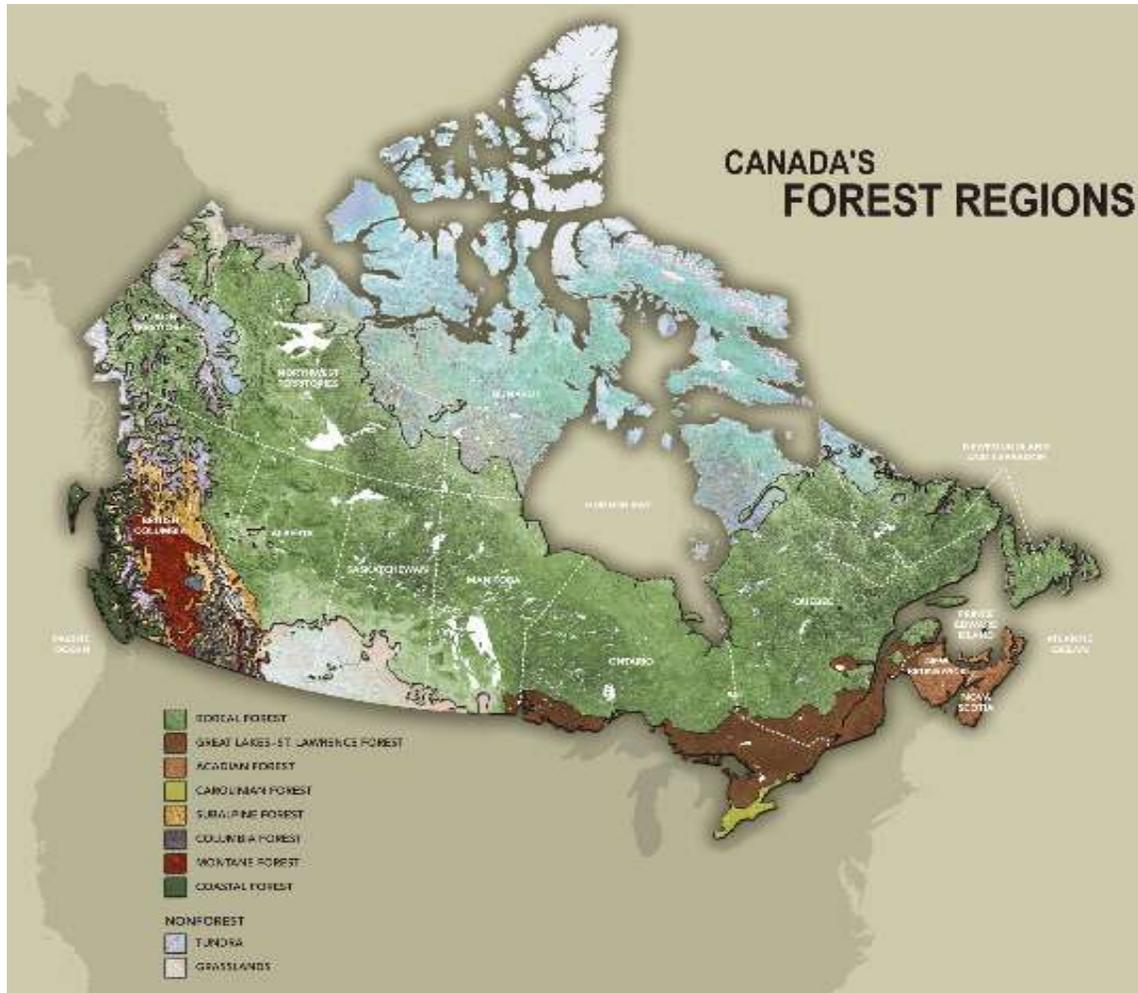


Figure 15. Forest Regions of Canada. (Natural Resources Canada)

### *Acadian Forest Region*

This region covers Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and most of New Brunswick. Its makeup most closely resembles that of the Great Lakes–St. Lawrence region, with beech, red oak, white elm all common to the region. Also found are black spruce, balsam fir, yellow birch, sugar maple and the trembling aspen, which is also common to the Subalpine and Boreal Forest Regions.

### *Great Lakes/St. Lawrence Forest Region*

Among Canada's forest regions, the Great Lakes/St. Lawrence area is second in size only to the boreal, covering southeastern Manitoba to the Gaspé Peninsula. Trees in this region are a mix of coniferous and deciduous, with species such as red pine, eastern white pine, yellow birch and eastern hemlock. Many boreal species may also be found here, in addition to beech, red oak, basswood, eastern white cedar, white elm and largetooth aspen.

### *Deciduous Forest Region*

The deciduous forest region is home to Canada's largest collection of native tree species such as the tulip, cucumber, pawpaw, red mulberry & sassafras. Located in southwestern Ontario between Lakes Huron, Ontario & Erie, the region is also home to a number of rare species like the southern flying squirrel, red-bellied woodpecker, black rat snake, and gray tree frog. Despite much of the original forest being cleared by early European settlement the deciduous forest region still represents almost three per cent of Ontario's total area.

### *Boreal Forest Region*

Canada shares 30% of the global boreal forest. The Canadian portion of the boreal region stretches from the Yukon and northeastern British Columbia across the northern parts of the Prairie Provinces, Quebec and Ontario to Labrador and Newfoundland. It forms a band more than 1000 kilometres wide. This area is primarily publicly owned and is rich in natural resources. Encircling the earth's Northern Hemisphere just south of the Arctic Circle, this green mantle of mainly coniferous forest comprises about 16.6 million square kilometres, or roughly one-third of the planet's forested area.

### *Montane Forest Region*

The Montane Forest Region covers British Columbia's central plateau, a portion of the Kootenays, and several valleys near the Alberta border. Trees commonly found in the region are Douglas fir, lodgepole pine and trembling aspen; white spruce is often found in cooler locations such as shaded valleys. Ponderosa pine can be found in the region's southern reaches while to the north are species such as Engelmann spruce, alpine fir and western white birch.

### *Columbia Forest Region*

Situated between the Rocky Mountains and British Columbia's central plateau, and running alongside river valleys and lakes, the coniferous Columbia Forest Region resembles the coast region in its makeup, albeit with fewer species. Throughout the region, western red cedar and western hemlock mingle with Douglas fir, while in the southern reaches grand fir, western yew and others are found.

### *Subalpine Forest Region*

Canada's Subalpine Forest Region spans both British Columbia and Alberta, stretching across the Rocky Mountains from the coast to the uplands of Alberta. The lodgepole pine, Engelmann spruce and alpine fir are all trees characteristic to the Subalpine Region which also shares a number of trees with other forest areas; the boreal forest, for example, shares its black spruce, white spruce, and trembling aspen with the Subalpine. Other trees found in this region are the western larch, mountain hemlock, limber pine and whitebark pine.

### *Coastal Forest Region*

This almost exclusively coniferous region is unique to the coast of British Columbia. It is home to a number of trees like the Douglas-fir, Sitka spruce, western hemlock, and western red cedar, all of which are recognized for their economic value as timber-producers.

## 4.2 Forest Succession

Fire, along with disease, insect infestation, and weather (i.e. snow, ice, wind, and lightning) are major environmental disturbances that alter ecosystems. Destructive as they may seem, they leave in their wake space for new plants to grow. A gradual and complex series of changes (both biotic and abiotic) called **succession** must occur to re-establish the forest.

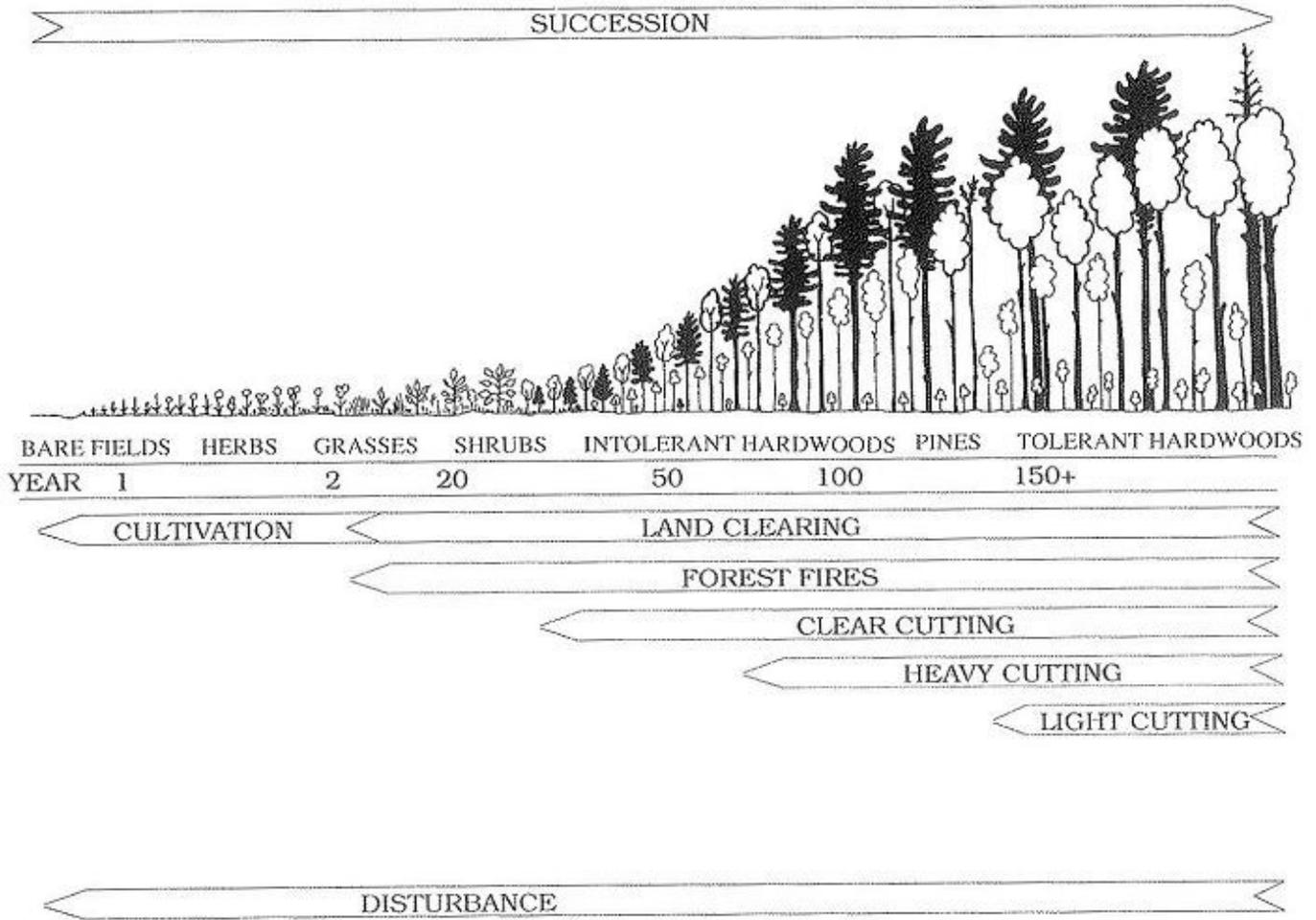


Figure 16. Stages of succession (Focus on Forests, 1987)

Succession is the directional change in vegetation resulting from the interactions between the living and the nonliving factors of the environment. New plants germinate, grow, and reproduce to successfully inhabit the vacant ecological niche. As the plants increase in size and in number, competition and environmental change begin to change the ecosystem. A new series of plants germinate, grow, and reproduce to repeat the cycle of change. The rate of change becomes more gradual with time until the system stabilizes. This is the final stage of succession in the ecosystem and is called the **climax**. However, it must be emphasized that forests are complex, dynamic communities that are continually evolving at varying rates. Even a climax community is constantly undergoing changes. At any time in the series of changes from the beginning to the climax, a new disturbance may interrupt the series and create a new beginning.

There are two major forms of succession: **primary succession** and **secondary succession**. Primary succession begins on bare areas that did not previously support vegetative growth. These may be areas of water, sand, or rock. Primary succession begins with soil building. Soils develop from primitive plants called colonizers reacting with the rock over long periods of time to eventually provide bits of soil that, in time, will support larger vegetation. With the accumulation of soil, new plants germinate, grow, and reproduce to begin the stages of a new succession. Secondary succession occurs in areas in which vegetation does grow, but which have been altered by such external forces as fire, logging, and land clearing. New plants germinate, grow, and reproduce to begin the cycle to the forest stage.

An area containing trees of the same age or close to the same age (10 to 20 years difference) is called an **even-aged stand**. Even-aged stands begin as a result of reforestation of a clearcut area or an area depleted by disease, insect damage or fire. Usually, even-aged stands are dominated by a single species, although there could be other species present. As a result, they are very susceptible to attacks by insects or disease. If the area contains trees of many ages, it is called an **uneven-aged stand**. Because of the diversity of tree species common in uneven-aged stands, a variety of other plants and animals are often present. As a result, diseases and insect pests that threaten the trees may be present but are not usually widespread.

### 4.3 Shade Tolerance

Shade tolerance is the relative capacity of tree species to compete for survival under shaded conditions. It is a tree trait, a functional adaptation that varies among species. Because of its pronounced influence on tree survival and stand growth, shade tolerance is a pillar of silviculture.

Shade tolerance in trees ranges along a continuum from very shade intolerant to very shade tolerant. These rankings of light requirements are a fundamental precept, a basis for a forester’s management decisions about which trees to keep or cut and when.

It is important to understand that shade tolerance is not the same as shade preference as most plant species grow well, and in most cases even prefer, full light conditions. Being shade tolerant means that they have a competitive advantage when shade conditions exist. For these species, a bit of shade makes them more competitive than they would be under more light because they can outgrow less shade-tolerant species. They compete better in shade.



Figure 17. Understory of shade-tolerant sugar maple regeneration under sugar maple stand. (Photo credit: Natural Resources Canada)

Shade-tolerant species, such as eastern hemlock and American beech, can become established and survive on less than 5 percent full light. They typically have longer crowns with lower branches that stay foliated longer than intolerant species. They generally grow slowly and live long. By contrast, shade-intolerant species, such as trembling aspen and red pine, may require as much as 60 percent of full light to remain competitive. Typically, they have shorter, more open crowns, and grow in lower stand densities. They tend to mature early, fruit sooner, and die younger. There’s also a class of intermediate shade-tolerant species. Yellow birch and white pine, for instance, work the middle ranges of light availability, remaining competitive with 10 to 30 percent of full light. Many intermediates germinate and establish under the existing forest canopy, where they’ll wait until a local disturbance provides new light, at which point they can respond with accelerated growth to fill a gap in the canopy.

Table 2. Shade tolerances of tree species native to New Brunswick

Intolerant	Intermediate	Tolerant
White birch,	Red oak	Eastern hemlock
Trembling aspen	White ash	Northern white cedar
Largetooth aspen	White pine	Sugar maple
Jack pine	Yellow birch	American beech
Red pine	White spruce	Red spruce
Tamarack	Basswood	Balsam fir

#### 4.4 Forest Soils

Soils have provided the foundation for trees and entire forests over millions of years. Soil is an important component of forest and woodland ecosystems as it helps regulate important ecosystem processes, such as nutrient uptake, decomposition, and water availability. Soils provide trees with anchorage, water and nutrients. In turn, trees as well as other plants and vegetation, are an important factor in the creation of new soil as leaves and other vegetation rot and decompose.



Figure 18. Forest soil profile (Photo credit Natural Resources Canada)

However, the relationship between soils and forests is much more complex and far-ranging. Soils and forests are intrinsically linked, with huge impacts on each other and on the wider environment. The interactions between forests and forest soils help to maintain the environmental conditions needed for agricultural production. These positive effects are far reaching and ultimately help to ensure a productive food system, improved rural livelihoods and a healthy environment in the face of change.

Carbon emissions are a major contributor to climate change. The world's forests, in one of their many roles, act as a significant carbon store. 650 billion tonnes of carbon, or nearly one third of the total in terrestrial ecosystems, are captured in forests. Forest soils also store a quantity of carbon equalling that of the global forest biomass, about 45 percent each. An additional ten percent of carbon is found in forest dead wood and litter. In total, forests store as much carbon as the atmosphere.

The planet needs sustainably managed forests to control soil erosion and to conserve soil. Tree roots stabilize ridge, hill and mountain slopes and provide the soil with the necessary mechanical structural support to prevent shallow movements of land mass: landslides rarely occur in areas with high forest cover.

Sound forest management practices, including measures to introduce or maintain forest cover on erosion-prone soils and run-off pathways, will help control or reduce the risk of soil erosion and shallow landslides. Forest restoration in dryland areas is vital for soil protection.

By reducing soil erosion and the risk of landslides and avalanches, sustainably managed forests contribute significantly to the systems providing and maintaining the planet's supplies of clean water, while also ensuring a balanced water cycle.

Forests are also a key component of watershed management – an integrated approach of using natural resources in a geographical area drained by a watercourse. Watershed management is a very sound way to protect and rehabilitate areas prone to soil degradation and erosion in upland areas. Forest and soil characteristics are among the key parameters assessed in watershed management planning. Moreover, measures to restore and enhance soil fertility, e.g. through reforestation, have many benefits and are therefore an integral part of any watershed management plan.

By helping to prevent soil erosion, forests act as a crucial protector of soil resources, for example in preventing or reducing salinization. The challenge in arid-zone forests is therefore to optimize the trade-offs, between water yield and soil protection.

Steep slopes and thin soil make mountain ecosystems extremely vulnerable to erosion. Mountain soils are often degraded and invariably do not provide enough nutrients for plants to grow well. FAO estimates that around 45 percent of the world's mountain area is not or only marginally suitable for agriculture. The degradation of mountain soil and vegetation cover may happen gradually or rapidly but often takes many years to repair; in some cases it is irreversible.

The challenges that mountain farmers must overcome are many: short vegetation periods, steep slopes, shallow soils and the occurrence of landslides. To survive, they have had to develop different ways of averting or spreading risks, employing complex and diversified farming systems on croplands, pastures and forests. They know that they must make use of different soil types at different altitudes and at different times of the year.

The importance of these effects has often been ignored in the past, with the clearance of tree vegetation and the subsequent loss of millions of hectares of productive land. Furthermore, as forests continue to be cleared-exposing the land to direct attack from wind and rain-soil erosion and land degradation are still undermining agriculture's resource base. In order to protect our soils, we need to protect our trees and forests. Both of these vital resources play pivotal roles in food security and a healthy environment.

#### 4.5 Forest Fires

Fire behaviour refers to the manner in which fuel ignites, flame develops and fire spreads. In wildland fires, this behaviour is influenced by how fuels (such as needles, leaves and twigs), weather and topography interact.

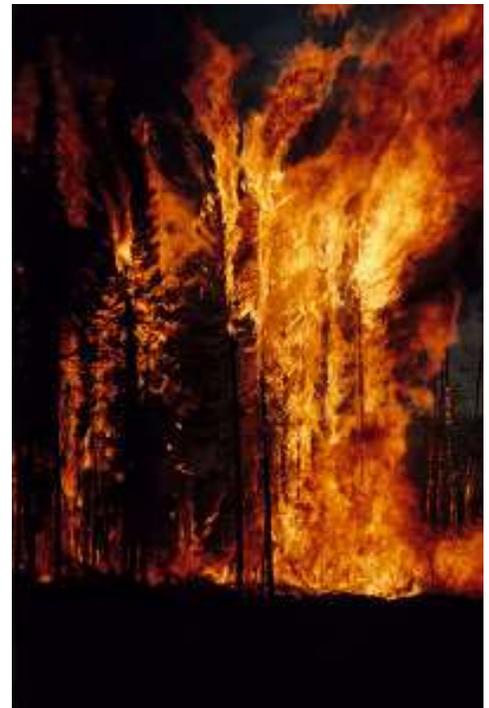
Once a fire starts, it will continue burning only if heat, oxygen and more fuel are present. Together, these three elements are said to make up the "fire triangle."

To put out a fire requires eliminating one or more of the fire triangle's elements. Firefighters work to do that by:

- cooling fuels below the combustion temperature through the use of water, foam, retardant or dirt
- cutting off the oxygen supply through the use of water, retardant or dirt
- removing fuel by clearing a swath of trees and brush ahead of the advancing fire

There are three basic types of forest fires:

1. **Crown fires** burn trees up their entire length to the top. These are the most intense and dangerous wildland fires.
2. **Surface fires** burn only surface litter and duff. These are the easiest fires to put out and cause the least damage to the forest.
3. **Ground fires** (sometimes called underground or subsurface fires) occur in deep accumulations of humus, peat and similar dead vegetation that become dry enough to burn. These fires move very slowly, but can become difficult to fully put out, or suppress.



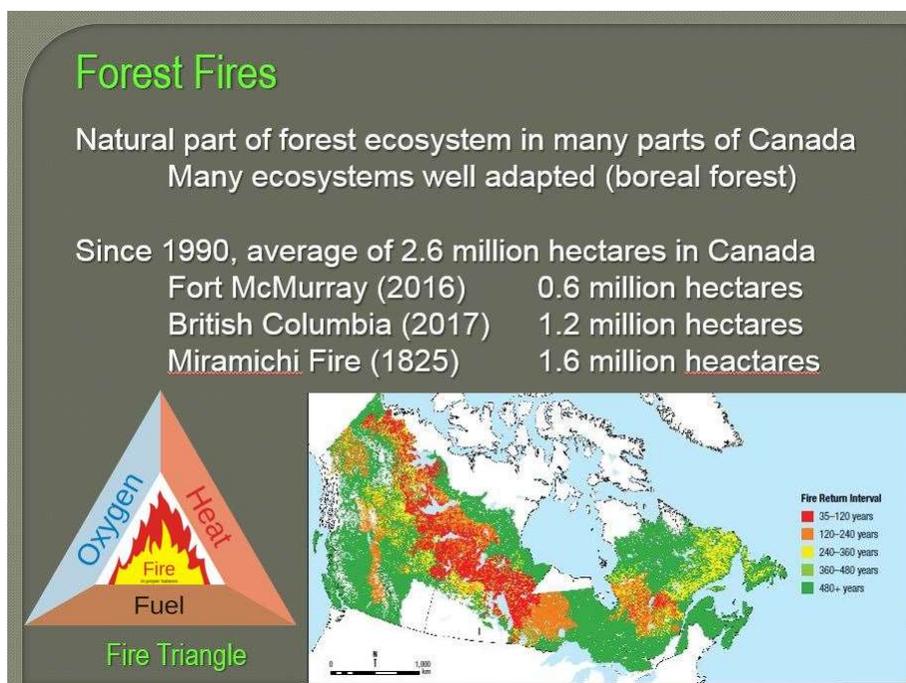
Occasionally, especially during prolonged drought, such fires can smoulder all winter underground and then emerge at the surface again in spring.

The fire season generally runs from April to October, with the peak of activity occurring from mid-May to August. Catastrophic fires tend to occur during periods of extended drought or wind storms.

Lightning strikes cause slightly less than half of all wildland fires in Canada, but account for nearly 67% of the land area burned. There are two main reasons for this:

- Lightning-caused fires often occur in remote areas where human life, property and timber values are not threatened. Fire suppression in these areas may therefore be intentionally limited, leaving fire to play its natural role.
- Several lightning fires can be ignited simultaneously, leaving agencies with difficult decisions about where to send available firefighting crews and equipment.

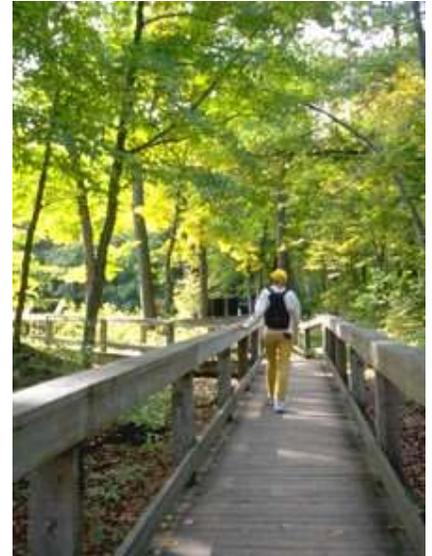
Humans cause slightly more than half of all wildland fires in Canada, typically in populated forest and grassland areas. Because of where these fires occur, they are usually spotted early and can be reached quickly by firefighting crews. Still, the threat they pose to human safety and property makes them a major concern for firefighting crews.



Source: G.R. Morrison.

#### 4.6 Ecosystem Services

Forests play a vital role in Canada's economic prosperity and create directly and indirectly, with the forest industry, some 600,000 [jobs](#) . At the same time, forests also provide carbon storage, soil conservation and the creation of supportive environments for various species. These non-timber benefits are termed "ecosystem services." Taking into account specific ecosystem services in the process of policy development and decision-making is not an easy task, especially when some ecosystem services are more financial benefits than others. However, Canadians increasingly recognize the many ecosystem services provided by forests and resource management agencies begin to [evaluate](#) and assess the economic, social and environmental thereof.



The advantages offered by forest ecosystems include:

- goods such as timber, food, fuel and organic products
- ecological functions such as carbon storage, nutrient cycling, purification of air and water, and the maintenance of habitats for fauna and flora
- cultural benefits such as recreation, traditional uses of resources and spirituality

The first challenge to achieve sustainable forest management is to find ways to continue to benefit from ecosystem services without compromising the ability of the forest to provide those services.

#### 4.7 Forests and Earth's carbon balance

The “carbon cycle” refers to the constant movement of carbon from the land and water through the atmosphere and living organisms. This cycle is fundamental to life on Earth.

Forests are a vital part of the carbon cycle, both storing and releasing this essential element in a dynamic process of growth, decay, disturbance and renewal. At a global scale, forests help maintain Earth’s carbon balance.

Over the past four decades, forests have moderated climate change by absorbing about one-quarter of the carbon emitted by human activities such as the burning of fossil fuels and the changing of land uses. Carbon uptake by forests reduces the rate at which carbon accumulates in the atmosphere and thus reduces the rate at which climate change occurs.

How well forests will continue to remove the proportion of carbon now being emitted by human activities will affect the future rate of carbon increase in the atmosphere.

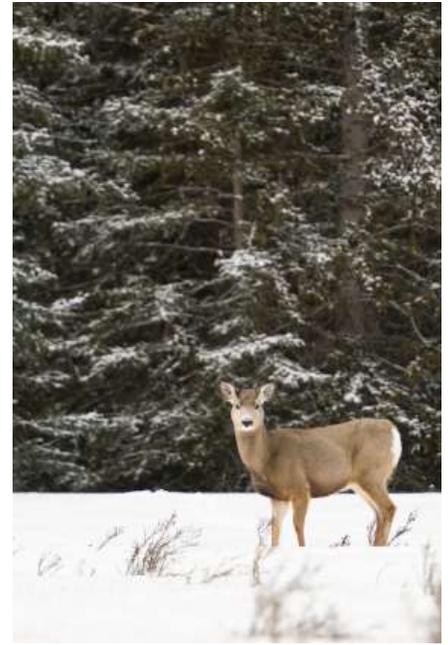
Earth’s carbon balance is calculated as the carbon emissions from human activities minus the carbon uptake by oceans and land systems. Since the industrial use of fossil fuels began, the net carbon balance has resulted in increases in the atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentration from 280 parts per million to over 390 parts per million.

As a major forest nation, Canada is working to understand how today’s changing climate will affect the global carbon balance, the health of the country’s ecosystems and the flow of goods and services provided to Canadian society.

Canada also has international reporting obligations. Under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Canada must monitor and report greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and changes in the carbon stock in its managed forests. This means tracking changes that result from forest growth, decomposition, disturbances (fire and insects), harvesting and land-use changes. Land-use changes include afforestation (that is, the creation of new forests where none exist) and deforestation (that is, the conversion of forests to non-forest land uses such as agriculture).

Forests can act as either carbon sources or carbon sinks.

- A forest is considered to be a *carbon source* if it releases more carbon than it absorbs. Forest carbon is released when trees burn or when they decay after dying (as a result of old age or of fire, insect attack or other disturbance).
- A forest is considered to be a *carbon sink* if it absorbs more carbon from the atmosphere than it releases. Carbon is absorbed from the atmosphere through photosynthesis. It then becomes deposited in forest biomass (that is, trunks, branches, roots and leaves), in dead organic matter (litter and dead wood) and in soils. This process of carbon absorption and deposition is known as carbon sequestration.



The net balance of all of these carbon exchanges determines whether a forest is a carbon source or sink. Yet, the carbon source/sink balance is as dynamic as it is complex.

For the past century, Canada's managed forests have been a significant carbon sink, steadily adding carbon to that already stored. In recent decades, however, the situation has reversed in some years: Canada's forests have become carbon sources, releasing more carbon into the atmosphere than they are accumulating in any given year.

Several factors have contributed to this shift. The annual total area burned by wildland fires has increased substantially. Unprecedented insect outbreaks have occurred. And annual harvest rates have shifted dramatically in response to economic demand, increasing in the 1990s and decreasing sharply with the global economic recession.

The combination of these events and activities has resulted in Canada's managed forest acting as a net carbon source in years when large areas are burned.

## 5.0 FOREST MANAGEMENT

A silviculture system covers all management activities related to growing forests — from early planning through harvesting, replanting and tending the new forest. Forest managers consider a variety of ecological, economic and social factors when choosing a silviculture system.

Each silviculture system is named after the cutting method with which the regeneration is established. The silvicultural systems most commonly used in Canada are the clearcut, the shelterwood and the single tree selection systems. The clearcut and shelterwood systems are used to manage even-aged forests, which are defined by relatively small age differences between individual trees. The selection system is used to manage uneven-aged stands, which means the forest has trees in various stages of development. It is appropriate for species that thrive in shade.



A typical silviculture system (BC Ministry of Forests)

### 5.1 Silviculture

Silviculture can be defined as the art and science of controlling the establishment, growth, composition, health, and quality of forest vegetation to meet forest objectives.

A silvicultural system is a series of planned and scheduled treatments with the objective of:

- Harvesting trees
- Establishing one or several species on a site
- Improving wood quality of trees in a stand using a variety of stand improvement techniques,
- Creating or improving wildlife habitat,
- Etc.

### 5.2 Harvesting systems – even-aged stands

Trees in even-aged stands are of the same age or almost the same age. Natural even-aged forests occur after a major disturbance such as fire or insect epidemics such as spruce budworm. Many fire-origin even-aged stand are still present in New Brunswick. Most of these stands are softwood and consist mainly of a single species – jack pine and black spruce being the most common. Even-aged stands generally have a well-developed canopy with a regular top at a uniform height.



Even-aged stand  
(BC Ministry of Forests)

Even-aged stand can develop from the following silvicultural systems:

- Clearcut
- Patch cut
- Seed tree cut
- Shelterwood cut
- Coppice method

#### 5.2.1 Clearcut system

Clearcuts can create habitat for a variety of wildlife not found in mature forests particularly where snags or live trees with cavities and perches are left throughout. Raspberries, pin cherry, aspen, and white birch often sprout soon after cutting, providing valuable sources of berries and seeds (mast), browse, and cover for many species of wildlife. Black bear will forage throughout the summer on the edges of these cuts.

The maximum clearcut size in New Brunswick is xx hectares although the average is much smaller at xx hectares.

#### 5.2.2 Patch cut system

The patch cut system involves removal of an entire stand of trees *less than one hectare in size* from an area. Each patch cut is managed as a distinct even-aged opening. If an area contains several patch cuts, each opening is still managed as a distinct opening. Regeneration is obtained either by artificial or natural regeneration, or a combination of the two. This system is a clearcut variant.

#### 5.2.3 Seed tree system

In a seed tree system the entire cutting unit is managed as it is with clearcut systems. However, for a designated period, those trees selected for providing seed are not harvested. As seed trees are left to supply seed for the next crop, the best trees should be selected to encourage desirable genetic traits.

A classic seed tree system depends on natural regeneration, although the seed trees may not be relied upon entirely and some planting may occur under seed trees, often at reduced stocking levels. Usually, the seed trees are harvested in a "removal cut" once regeneration is established.

Figure 19. Seed tree cut where yellow birch was left to regenerate the site. The ground was purposefully disturbed (scarified) during extraction to create a suitable seed bed to encourage regeneration. (Photo credit: Natural Resources Canada)



#### 5.2.4 Shelterwood system

The objective of the shelterwood system is to open up the canopy in order to release pre-existing regeneration or to create favourable conditions for the establishment of new regeneration. The smaller and poorer quality trees are cut leaving an overstory of larger trees with good characteristics to provide seed for the new seedlings. If many overstory trees are left, the shady conditions are good for tolerant species such as red spruce, eastern hemlock or sugar maple. Fewer overstory trees provide partial shade for oak, yellow birch or white pine. Once an understory of desirable seedlings is established, the overstory trees are carefully removed to release the new stand.

Trees selected as leave-trees in shelterwood systems should be:

1. larger, dominant trees
2. windfirm trees
3. desirable species
4. desirable physical characteristics

Shelterwood cuts are implemented by using a series of harvesting entries, each with specific objectives. These may or may not include the following depending on stand conditions:

1. Preparatory cuts – A preparatory cut is often the first entry in a stand intended for the shelterwood system. A preparatory cut is very similar to a commercial thinning as the trees removed are usually the smaller, poorer quality trees in the stand. The objective of the preparatory cut is to begin to open the stand with the objective of improving the vigour of trees that will produce seeds and to make them more windfirm.
2. Establishment cut (regeneration cut) – This cutting, which may be the first cutting in some stands, is intended to provide growing space for the regeneration to establish and to provide shelter for the young developing seedlings.
- 3 Removal cut – This is the final stage of shelterwood cutting and is carried out once the regeneration is well- established. Great care must be taken so as not to damage the existing regeneration as these trees will be the future stand.

#### Uniform shelterwood system

In uniform shelterwood systems, treatments are applied uniformly over the same stand: this is the standard type of shelterwood. The uniform system is the system that most often relies on a series of preparatory cuttings (thinnings) to ready the stand for the regeneration/establishment cutting by encouraging crown expansion, and promoting windfirmness and seed production.



Figure 20. White pine shelterwood cut (left) and white pine regeneration (right). (Photo credit: Natural Resources Canada)

### Strip shelterwood system

Harvesting entries in a strip shelterwood are made in relatively narrow strips that advance progressively through a portion of the block over the regeneration period. In this way initial harvesting occurs in the stand as uniformly staggered linear strips. Future harvesting strips are added beside the initial strips and progress into the wind until the entire block is harvested.



Figure 21. Strip cut with well-established regeneration in leaf strip.

### Group shelterwood system

In the simplest form of the group shelterwood system, small gaps (one to two tree lengths in diameter) are created in the stand. The adjacent trees can shelter the new regeneration growing in the gaps. For example, these openings may comprise 20-40% of the stand area during a given entry. Further cuts expand existing openings or create new openings (see diagram below).

#### 5.2.5 Coppice system

The coppice system is an even-aged silvicultural system through which the main regeneration method is through vegetative propagation -- sprouts from the existing root systems or suckers from cut stumps. This system is limited to hardwood species management.

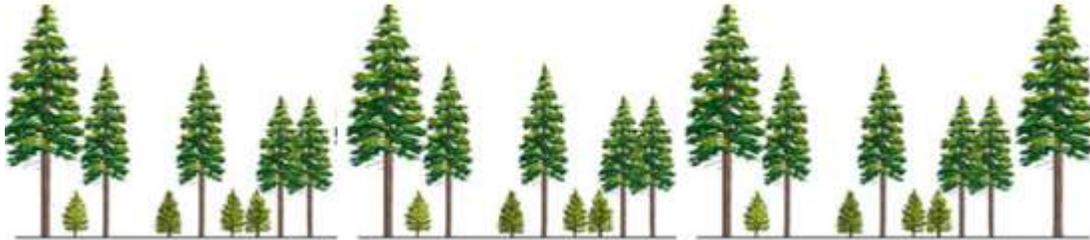
A good example of a coppice stand originating from sprouting in New Brunswick is trembling aspen regeneration following the harvest of a stand with a trembling aspen component. Trembling aspen roots do not die after the tree is cut but will produce hundreds if not thousands of root sprouts that will quickly occupy the site. As sprouts do not have to develop their own root system, they grow very rapidly often reaching 1-2 meters in height after one year.

Red maple will regenerate through vegetative reproduction from suckers originating from the stump after the tree is cut. As is the case with trembling aspen sprouts, maple suckers will grow very quickly after a tree is cut. The number of suckers from a simple stump can easily range from 20-30. The wood quality is poorer than trees that grow directly from seed.

Although coppicing is an easy method to regenerate a harvested area (providing the area has tree species capable of regenerating from suckers and sprouts), the quality of the wood and the species that are regenerated are not always the preferred species of forest managers.

### 5.3 Harvesting system – uneven-aged management

Uneven-aged stands have an uneven and highly broken or irregular canopy (often with many gaps). This broken canopy allows for greater light penetration and encourages deeper crowns and greater vertical structure in a stand. Most stems occur in the smallest age/size class, as regeneration quickly fills the frequent canopy gaps. Because regeneration is initiated in small gaps, more shade-tolerant tree species are generally favoured.



*Uneven-aged stands have at least three well-represented and well-defined age classes, differing in height, age, and diameter. Often these classes can be broadly defined as: regeneration (or regeneration and sapling), pole, and mature. (BC Ministry of Forests)*

Uneven-aged management is generally considered to be more difficult than even-aged management since all age classes are mixed together and therefore can be difficult to isolate and quantify. However, uneven-aged management may be an objective for many reasons such as visuals, regeneration of shade-tolerant species, health, soil, habitat, and fire protection.

#### 5.3.1 Selection system

Selection management is also referred to as uneven-aged management. Under this management regime, trees are removed either as single scattered individuals or in small groups. In order to ensure that a proper age class distribution is maintained, the selection methods requires interventions in the stand every 15-20 years. Regeneration should occur throughout the life of the stand with pulses following harvest entries.

New regeneration develops in small scattered openings created in small gaps. Since regeneration is always being recruited and larger mature trees are scattered, or in very small groups, these stands appear quite open, with many gaps. The system is generally used for the most tolerant species in an area

A good example of selection management is sugar maple stands manage for the production of maple products. As only mature trees can be tapped for maple products, the owner must maintain trees of all sized to ensure that as the older trees die out, younger ones are there to replace them.

## 5.4 Reforestation

All provincial and territorial lands that are harvested for commercial timber in Canada must be regenerated either naturally or by planting or seeding. Each province and territory has its own regeneration standards and regulations, addressing such areas as species composition, density and stocking level, and the distribution of various forest types across the landscape.

The benefits of natural regeneration include the need for minimal human assistance and generally lower costs than for artificial regeneration. However, planting and seeding provides more control over what grows, so they are often used to ensure that provincial and territorial regeneration standards and forest management objectives are met. More than half of Canada's harvested areas are regenerated through planting and seeding activities.

In New Brunswick, about one third of the harvested areas on Crown land is planted. In many ways a forest plantation is similar to an agricultural crop. In order to ensure a successful plantation the forest manager should:

**Use good quality seed** – New Brunswick has a long history of genetic tree improvement for reforestation. In 1976, the New Brunswick Tree Improvement Council was established to coordinate tree improvement efforts of government and industrial agencies and to facilitate the free exchange of genetic material and information. Early in the program, plus-trees, trees having superior, form, size, growth and insect and disease resistance, were selected and seed and cuttings was collected to establish seed orchards. Over the years, the best trees were selected and pollen was collected and used to fertilize flowers of other selected trees. Seed from these crosses were planted to establish new orchards.

Today, seed used for growing tree seedlings in New Brunswick comes from second- and third-generation seed orchard trees. Seedlings grown from improved seed are faster growing and of higher quality than naturally grown seedlings.



Figure 22. Seedlings grown at the Kingsclear Forest Nursery, near Fredericton.

**Plant high quality seedlings** – The majority of planting stock used in forestry comes from forest nurseries. Planting stock for forestry is relatively small (especially when compared to the production of ornamental trees or trees for urban planting) and seedlings for reforestation are produced in large numbers.

There are two main types of planting stock used for reforestation – bareroot and container. Bareroot planting stock is grown directly in the nursery soil and the roots are separated from the soil at the time of lifting.

Container stock is usually grown inside nurseries under controlled conditions. Container nurseries with greenhouse culture are best for areas with colder climates and short growing seasons. With controlled environmental conditions, it is possible to accelerate the growth of plants and, if required, have more than one crop rotation each year. Today, almost all of the planting stock used for reforestation is container.

**Ensure good site preparation to provide good planting sites –**

Areas that have been cutover often have considerable slash – branches, tree tops and other harvest debris, that pose obstacles to tree planters. Many forested areas also have a thick organic layer that can easily dry up during summer causing the seedling to dry out and die. For trees to survive, their roots must penetrate the mineral soil. In order to ensure good planting conditions and survival of planted seedlings, harvested areas usually undergo a site preparation treatment before planting.

Many different types of equipment can be used to prepare an area for planting. Regardless of the equipment used, the objective is to create as many suitable planting spots as possible. Suitability for planting means easy access for planters and sufficient suitable microsites for seedling survival and growth. These microsites generally have adequate drainage, mineral soil and humus mixture, and minimal weed competition.



Figure 23. Forestry worker planting containerized seedlings in a cutover. (Photo credit: Doug Pitt)

**Chose the right species for the site –** White and black spruce are the most commonly planted species with Norway spruce, red spruce, jack pine, white pine, also planted but in lesser quantities. Harwood species are not planted for reforestation in New Brunswick mainly because of risk of browsing by deer and moose. Choosing the right species for the right site is critical as each species is best adapted to certain site conditions.

**Tend the planted trees so that they can grow free of competition –** Planted trees are small and can be easily overtopped by competing vegetation such as grasses, ferns, shrubs and low-quality hardwood. In order to ensure their continued growth, a plantation tending is often needed. Plantation tending can be done chemically with an herbicide or mechanically using a brush saw.



Figure 24. Chemical release of planted trees using herbicide (left) and mechanical release using brush saw (right). (Photos credits: Doug Pitt (left) and NBDNR (right))

## 5.5 Pre-commercial thinning

Because the trees have not yet reached a size where they are commercially marketable for timber, this treatment is called pre-commercial thinning (PCT). Thinning can be carried out in stands of natural or planted trees that are of similar age and size.

Some of the best growing sites exhibit the densest thickets of trees. It is not unusual for some softwood thickets to contain over 30,000 trees per hectare (>12,000 trees per acre). This silviculture treatment, similar to thinning carrots in a garden, allows the best crop trees to obtain more sunlight, growing space, water and nutrients.

Trees receive the most benefit from PCT when they are less than 20 years old and softwoods are 2-6 m (6-20 ft) tall and hardwoods are 6-9 m (20-30 ft) in height.

PCT is usually carried out with a clearing saw, also called a spacing saw or brush saw, which enables the user to avoid the back strain and danger associated with a chain saw. Softwood trees are usually spaced to 1.8 m to 2.4 m (6 to 8 ft) between trees (1,500 to 3,000 trees per hectare or 600 to 1,200 trees per acre).



Choice of crop trees is ultimately up to the landowner but higher-value trees such as spruce and Eastern hemlock are often chosen over balsam fir, tamarack, and poplar.

Shade tolerant hardwoods such as sugar maple, yellow birch and white ash are commonly chosen over red maple, trembling aspen and white birch. Hardwoods are usually spaced 2.4 m to 3.0 m (8 to 10 ft) between trees. Each PCT is unique, as tree size, species composition, density and ground conditions differ on each site.



## 5.6 Commercial thinning

The main difference between a commercial thinning and a pre-commercial thinning (PCT) is the size of the trees. A commercial thinning is generally done as trees are moving from a juvenile to a mature stage of growth whereas pre-commercial thinning is done when the trees are still in the juvenile stage. Hardwood, softwood and mixedwood stands can all benefit from a commercial thinning.



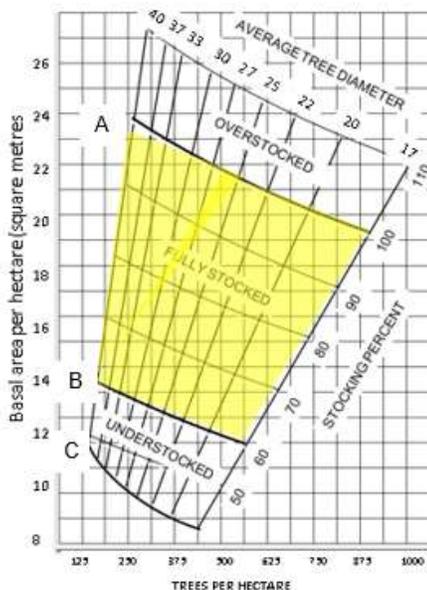
Commercial thinning is usually carried out when the stand has reached a point where too many trees are competing for nutrients and light. When left to grow naturally, trees that have poor access to light and nutrients will slow in growth and will eventually die.

Figure 25. Commercial thinning in a softwood stand.

The objectives of a commercial thinning include:

- improve the growth of residual trees
- recover wood that would otherwise be lost to mortality
- improve stand composition
- improve the quality of the stand by removing dead, diseased and deformed trees, and

While the need to carry out a pre-commercial thinning is based solely on density, the criteria for commercial thinning is based on basal area and density. Different stocking charts are used depending on the species and site productivity. Refer to Section 6.45 for more information on stocking charts.



The **A-line** corresponds to the upper limit of a fully stocked stand. If stocking levels are above this line the stand is overstocked and basal area should be reduced so that it falls in the fully stocked area of the chart.

The **B-line** corresponds to the lower limit of fully stocked stand. If stocking levels are between the B-line and the A-line, the stand is growing as it should and does not require thinning at this time.

The **C-line** is an estimate of the lowest stocking that will grow to the B-line within ten years. The exact timing is dependent on site quality.

Figure 26. Stocking chart

## 5.7 Sustainable Forest Management

Sustainable forest management means ensuring that forests provide a broad range of goods and services over the long term. Forest managers plan for harvest levels that will not affect the long-term sustainability of the forest resource. To determine the yearly level of harvest allowed, governments estimate the wood supply, which is the maximum volume of wood that can be harvested sustainably. Both the estimated wood supply and the volume of wood harvested fluctuate in response to a wide range of ecological, social and economic factors. Changes in wood supply are largely a result of adjustments in provincial forest management objectives. Comparing the amount of timber actually harvested to the estimated sustainable wood supply is one way to track forest management.

## 5.8 Annual Allowable Cut (AAC)

The annual allowable cut (AAC) is the amount of wood (volume) that can be harvested each year without affecting the sustainability of the wood supply. The AAC is measured in cubic meters or cords (English system) of wood and is based on what the forest is able to grow.

The AAC can vary over time depending on what is happening to the forest. Certain factors or activities can increase the AAC while others may cause a reduction. Following are examples of how AAC can increase or decrease over time.

- Better forest inventory data (can increase or decrease AAC)
- Area available for harvest (can increase or decrease AAC)
- Insects and diseases (reduction in AAC)
- Forest fires (reduction in AAC)
- Silviculture (increase in AAC)
- Age class structure of forest (can increase or decrease AAC)

In New Brunswick, about 1.3 % of the forest is harvested every year.

## 5.9 Stumpage

Stumpage is the price paid to the landowner or government for the right to cut trees in a given location. To determine stumpage value, the area to be harvested is assessed and appraised through processes aimed at finding the volume of timber it contains.

Stumpage can be paid by cubic meter, weight or area harvested (hectare). The amount paid is influenced by the type and quality of the wood, market conditions, accessibility (roads, proximity to the mill) and many other factors.



## 5.10 Non-timber forest products

The economic wealth of Canada's forests has long been measured in terms of the trees used to make conventional forest products, notably softwood lumber, newsprint and wood pulp.

In fact, numerous forest-derived resources make a significant contribution to many rural communities and households across Canada through sales revenue and seasonal employment.

Non-timber forest products (NTFPs) refers to products of biological origin other than timber, derived from forests. The range of NTFPs is very diverse and includes those that are:

- Gathered from the wild, in either timber-productive or non-timber-productive forests and lands (e.g., mushrooms, blueberries, fiddleheads, etc.)
- Produced in forests under varying levels of management intensity (e.g., maple syrup, Christmas trees)
- Produced in agroforestry systems (e.g., forest species such as wild ginseng planted as field crops)

### Types of non-timber forest products (NTFPs)

- *Forest-based foods* – These include maple syrup, wild blueberries, wild mushrooms and native understory plants such as wild ginseng and fiddleheads. By-products of the forest industry can also be converted into prepared foods (e.g., lignin, a natural constituent of wood is used to make artificial vanilla).
- *Ornamental products from the forest* – These include: horticultural species bred from wild species (such as cedars and maples); and decorative or artistic products such as Christmas trees and wreaths, fresh or dried floral greenery (e.g., salal), and specialty wood products and carvings.
- *Forest plant extracts used to make pharmaceuticals and personal care products* – These include paclitaxel (commonly known by the trade name Taxol®), which is most often extracted from yews like the Canada yew (ground hemlock). Taxol is widely used as a chemotherapy agent. Other forest plant extracts, particularly conifer essential oils, are used in a wide range of creams and other personal care products.



## 6.0 FOREST MEASUREMENTS

There are a variety of measurements and information that forest managers use to help them decide how forest should be managed. Although some information can now be obtained remotely, through LiDAR and other remote sensing technologies, foresters still need to verify this information by doing on site measurements and sampling.

Some basic forest measurements include age, height, diameter, basal area, density, stocking and volume. Some of these can be obtained directly through measurement (age, height, diameter, density, basal area) while others must be calculated or determined from graphs or charts (volume, stocking).

The most basic unit in forest management is the stand. A stand is a community of trees possessing sufficient uniformity in composition, height, maturity and health that allows them to be grouped together. A stand can measure anywhere from 0.5 hectare to hundreds of hectares in size. Measuring all of the trees in a stand is not practical and therefore sampling is used to represent the characteristics of the stand.

### 6.1 Working with aerial photography

Aerial photographs are a valuable tool that has been used for decades to assist foresters manage their woodland resources. For the purpose of this discussion, an aerial photograph is a photograph taken from above the ground, usually by a plane. An aerial view of the landscape provides a much clearer image of what the landscape contains. This is extremely useful to foresters who need to understand what is on the landscape and what landscape features need to be considered when planning their activities.

The identification of landscape features is both an art and a science. A good photo interpreter can identify buildings, rivers, lakes, wetlands, power lines, roads, distinguish between hardwood and softwood stands and measure heights, distances and areas.

A single photograph provides the user with a two dimensional view of an object. It is not possible to see depth (i.e. three dimensions) using a single photo. In order to see in 3D an object must be viewed from two different angles. Close one eye and look at an object – that object is seen in two dimensions as it is only viewed from a single point of reference. If you open your other eye the object can now be seen in 3D because the object is now viewed from two points of reference.

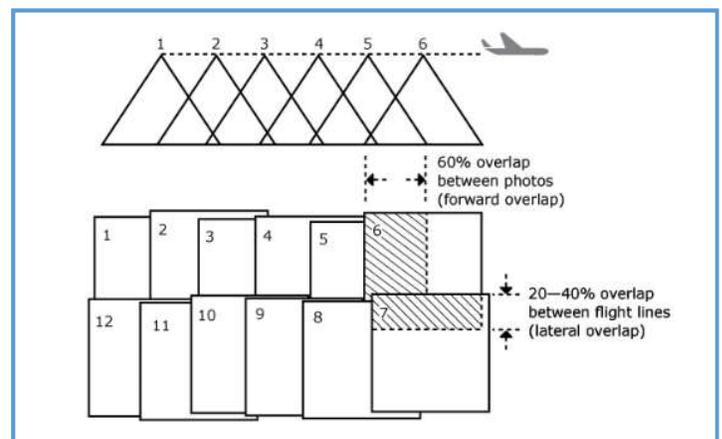


Figure 27. Flight lines are flown so that overlap occurs along flight lines (20 to 40 %) and between photos along a flight line (~ 60 %). This overlap makes seeing in 3D possible when using a stereoscope. (Natural Resources Canada)

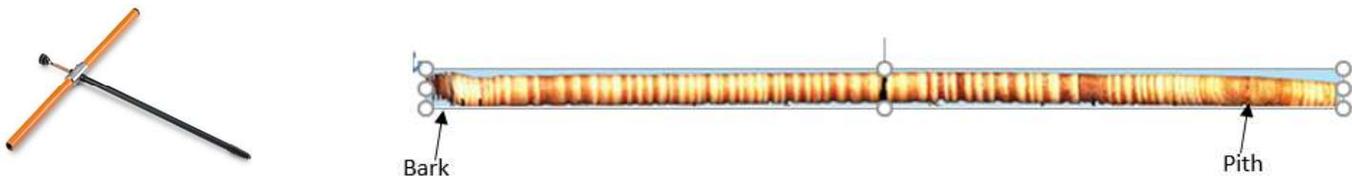


## 6.2 Tree measurements

### 6.2.1 Measuring the age of a tree

The age and growth history of a tree can help determine what management strategy to employ. The size of a tree is not always representative of its age. A tree's age can easily be determined after a tree is cut by counting the number of growth rings on the stump. As trees grow, they form rings made up of a band of light wood produced in the spring (earlywood) and a band of dark wood that forms later in the summer (latewood). This means the wood produced in one year can be measured by the width of one ring of light and dark wood. Counting the number of rings from the outer bark to the centre of the tree – or pith – tells you how old a tree is.

An increment borer is a tool that drills a small hole in a tree. It is important to drill straight and far enough into the tree so that the bore reaches the centre (pith) of the tree. A small core (below) can then be extracted and the annual rings counted to determine the age of the tree.



### 6.2.2 Measuring tree diameter

Diameter at breast height (DBH) is a very important measurement as it provides critical information as to the value of the trees in the stand (larger trees usually are more valuable). By combining tree diameter and height, tree volume can be determined.

Tree diameter is measured 1.3 meters (4.5 ft.) above the ground. This height for measuring DBH was chosen because:

1. Easy to reach
2. Avoids butt swell
3. Ensures consistency



In New Brunswick, tree diameter measurements are taken either with calipers or diameter tape. Calipers are quicker to use but provide less accuracy as measurements are recorded in 2 cm diameter classes. The diameter tape provides a much more accurate diameter measurement (nearest 0.1 cm) and is used where more precise measurements are required such as in permanent sample plots where measurements are taken periodically to determine tree growth over time. A note of caution when using the diameter tape is that one side measures diameter and the other side measures circumference.

There are instances where diameter should not be measured at 1.3 meters above ground

1. Trees with deformities (bumps, swellings or depressions) located at 1.3 meters should be measured above the deformity.
2. Forked trees
  - a. If the fork occurs above 1.3 meters, DBH should be measured fork at the smallest point below the fork.
  - b. If the fork occurs below 1.3 meters, you should consider these as two separate trees and measure above the swell caused by the fork.

### 6.2.3 Measuring tree height using Suunto hypsometer

Tree height are measured using an instrument called a hypsometer. The instrument we use for measuring tree heights for Envirothon is the Suunto hypsometer. There are several types of Suunto hypsometers and the user should be familiar with the different types that are available. We will discuss three types here.

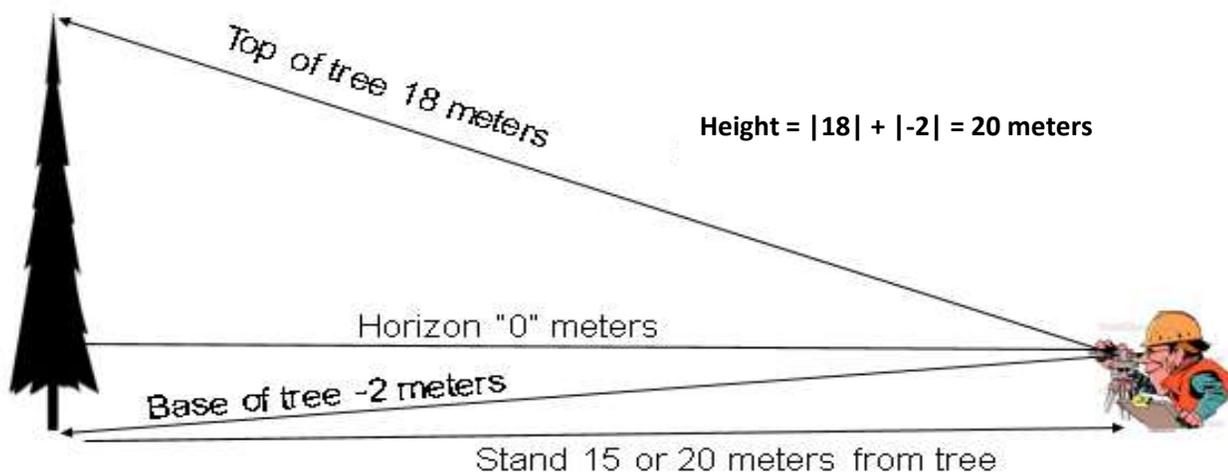
1. Percent (scale labeled %) where  $45^\circ = 100$
2. 15 meter (scale labeled 1/15) where  $45^\circ = 15$  units
3. 20 meter (scale labeled 1/20) where  $45^\circ = 20$  units

Using the percent scale

From a measured distance  $\leq 30$  meters, sum the absolute value of the sightings to the top and base of the tree (for example, 60% to the top and -10% to the base = 70% total. Then, multiply this total times your distance from the base of the tree (for example, 70% x 25 meters from tree = 17.5 meter tree).

Using the 15 meter or 20 meter scale

When using a Suunto with a 15 or 20 meter scale you must stand at either 15 or 20 meters from the tree. When looking through the Suunto, the "0" reading indicates the horizon. If you and the tree are on flat ground, the measurement taken at the top of the tree will be a positive number while the measurement at the base of the tree will be negative. By adding the absolute value of both numbers you will determine the height of the tree.



When measuring tree height on slopes it is possible that both the top and base of the tree could be below the horizon line and that both numbers are positive or negative. When this occurs simply subtract the absolute value of the top of the tree from the absolute value at the base. The difference will give you the height of the tree.

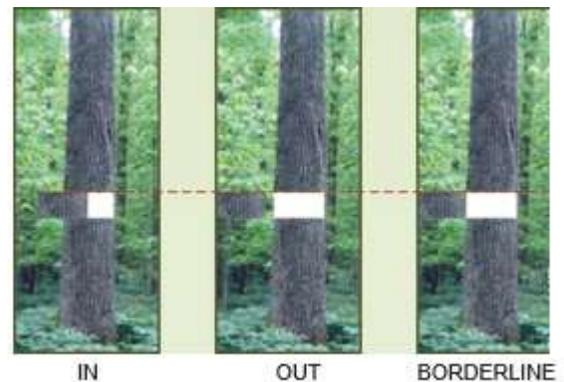
### 6.3 Basal area

The basal area of a single tree is the cross-sectional area of that tree measured at breast height (DBH, 1.3 meters above the ground). To calculate the basal area of a single tree simply use the formula for the area of a circle:  $\text{Area} = \pi r^2$

However, it is more practical to refer to basal area on a per hectare basis which means that it corresponds to the sum of the basal areas of all the trees on a hectare.

The wedge prism is the tool most commonly used to measure basal area. The prism consists of a thin layer of glass or plastic that refracts light thus displacing the image of an object (tree) when viewed through it. The prism is held above the plot centre and remains in that position while the person using the prism rotates around that point. It is a good idea to mark the plot centre with a stick and maintain the prism directly above the stick as measurements are taken. There are three possible outcomes for each tree that is assessed:

1. The displaced image touches the tree trunk, the tree is inside the plot and is counted.
2. The displaced image does not touch the tree trunk, the tree is outside the plot and is not counted.
3. The displaced image is perfectly aligned with the tree trunk. This tree is considered borderline and every second tree is counted.



Trees that are counted must be living and have a diameter of greater than 9 cm at breast height.

All prisms have a basal area factor. The basal area factor most commonly used in New Brunswick is  $2\text{m}^2/\text{ha}$ , which means that any tree that is within the plot represents 2 square meters of basal area on a per hectare basis

For example, if your plot contained 9 “IN” trees the basal area for that plot would be  $18\text{m}^2/\text{ha}$

However, when sampling a stand, several plots are usually taken to get an average of the stand. When more than one plot are taken, you must divide the total basal area by the number of plots and multiply that number by the basal area factor.

For example if you measured four plots and the total number of “In” trees in those four plots was 44, the basal area represented by those four plots would be  $44/4 = 11 \times 2\text{m}^2/\text{ha} = 22 \text{m}^2/\text{ha}$ .

Basal area is a very useful measure of the density of trees in a stand. Trees in a stand with a high basal area compete for space (sunlight) and nutrients which affects tree growth. Basal area is one of the main criteria used by foresters to determine what treatment a stand should receive and how intensive the treatment should be (i.e. how much basal area should be removed).

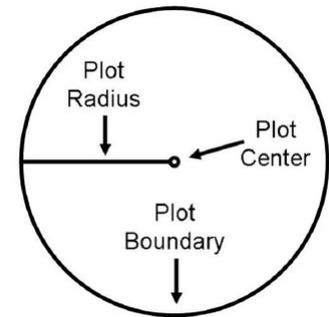
### 6.4 Stand density

Stand density is simply defined as the number of stems (or trees) per unit area (stems/hectare or stems/acre). As it is impractical to count all of the trees in a stand, sampling is used. Circular plots are

often used to determine density. The size of the sample plot depends on the number of stems to be counted. For example, the density of a young balsam fir thicket could be 50 000 stem/ha while the density of planted trees in a plantation could be 2000 planted trees/ha. Using the proper plot size is critical when sampling for density.

For example, a 5 m<sup>2</sup> sample plot would be appropriate to determine the number of stems in an area to be pre-commercially thinned. The 5m<sup>2</sup> plots represents 1/2000 of a hectare, so to calculate the number of stems/ha the average of stems counted in the sample plots would be multiplied by 2000 to determine the number of stems per hectare.

Another example would be to determine density of an area that had been planted or one that had been thinned. A 5m<sup>2</sup> plot would not be practical because it would sample too few trees. In this case, a 40 m<sup>2</sup> or 50 m<sup>2</sup> plot would be more realistic.



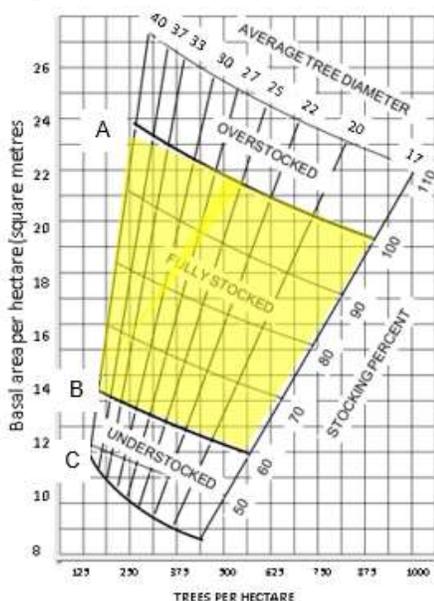
When sampling in the field, a cord cut to the proper length can be used to create a plot. The cord is fixed in place and this becomes the plot centre. The cord is then moved in a circular fashion and all trees that are inside the plot boundary are counted. To determine the plot radius of a 40 m<sup>2</sup> plot use the formula for the area of a circle and solve for r.

$$\text{Area} = \pi r^2 \qquad 40 \text{ m}^2 = 3.14 (r)^2 \qquad r = 3.57 \text{ m}$$

## 6.5 Stocking

Whereas density measures the number of trees per unit area, stocking is a measure of how fully occupied (stocked) a stand is. Stocking is used when the trees are bigger. Stocking charts that use basal area and density are used to determine the stocking level.

There are many stocking guides that reflect density for even-aged stands (also called stocking charts). These guides assist the forest manager in determining if the forest is adequate (fully stocked) too high (overstocked) or too low (understocked).



The **A-line** corresponds to the upper limit of a fully stocked stand. If stocking levels are above this line the stand is overstocked and basal area should be reduced so that it falls in the fully stocked area of the chart.

The **B-line** corresponds to the lower limit of fully stocked stand. If stocking levels are between the B-line and the A-line, the stand is growing as it should and does not require thinning at this time.

The **C-line** is an estimate of the lowest stocking that will grow to the B-line within ten years. The exact timing is dependent on site quality.

Stocking charts are used to help determine how much basal area to remove in commercial thinning or shelterwood cutting treatments.

## 6.6 LiDAR

Forest inventory in Canada is undergoing a paradigm shift. Light Detection and Ranging, more commonly known as LiDAR is being used to add increased information to our existing inventories.

LiDAR units can be mounted on an airplane or helicopter or used from the ground and, when combined with GPS technology, create a spatially accurate representation of the forest. Laser beams are projected towards the targeted features at thousands of pulses per second and the returning signal from these pulses creates a 3-dimensional point cloud image of the vegetation, ground surface, or any other intercepted object. Lasers use short wavelengths that are very effective at reflecting off small objects and can therefore produce high resolution images.

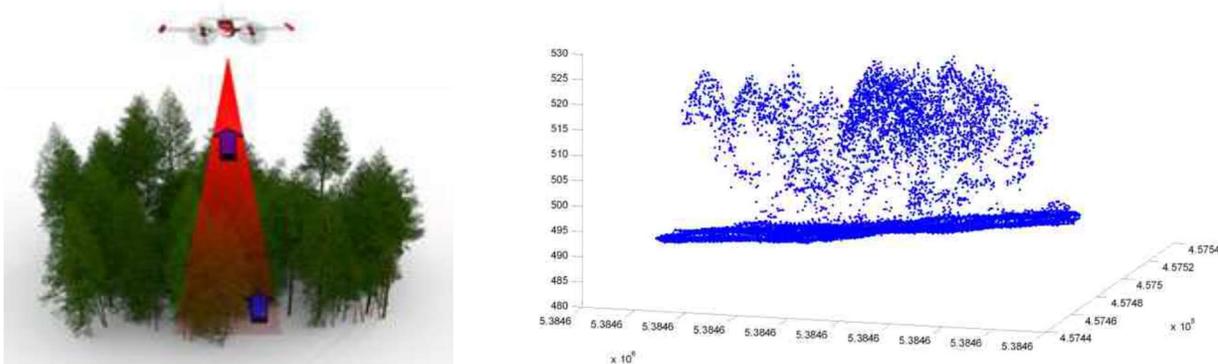


Figure 29. Aerial LiDAR measures the time it takes for a laser to strike an object and return to the source (NRCan, 2015).

Although LiDAR has been around for several decades, its use in forest inventory is relatively and it has the potential to revolutionize many aspects of forest management in Canada.

The strength of LiDAR is that it directly and more precisely measures vertical structures on the landscape. The ability to accurately measure the height of the canopy, ground elevation, and the vertical structure of the forest provides a wealth of information relating to stand structure. An important advantage is that it has the ability to produce statistically-based predictions of the stand attributes that are critical to sound forest management.

## 7.0 FOREST HEALTH

### 7.1 Biodiversity

Biological diversity – or biodiversity – includes all of the life on Earth and the natural patterns it forms. Biodiversity includes genetic, species and ecosystem diversity. Abiotic components are also part of an ecosystem's biodiversity as they contribute to ecosystem functioning. It is biodiversity that drives many natural processes and functions that are required for the survival of humans. These processes include purification of air and water, recycling of nutrients and fertilization of crops. Without these vital ecosystem services, humans would not be able to survive.

Trees play a crucial role in many ecosystems and are very important to animals as they offer habitat and food sources. Insects, birds and mammals eat the leaves, flowers, fruit, bark and twigs of many trees. Birds and animals use trees for nesting areas. Many animals use trees as a shelter from harsh weather. Other plants have a symbiotic relationship with trees and require their presence for survival. Trees are also very valuable to humans. Trees offer us shade and create beautiful colours for us to enjoy in the fall. Trees provide us with many products such as wood to create furniture, houses and fuel, and materials such as sap and nuts for food and bark for medicines.

Biodiverse forest ecosystems are often healthier because they have higher redundancy and resiliency. Redundancy occurs when there is more than one species that performs the same or similar vital functions in an ecosystem. High redundancy is beneficial to ecosystems because if one species is removed from the ecosystem there will be another species to perform its function. Resiliency is the ability to recover from, or to resist being affected by a disturbance. Biodiversity plays crucial roles in ecosystem resilience by ensuring ecosystems are capable of reorganizing after a disturbance. Resiliency increases when there is high redundancy within an ecosystem as species are able to replace each other in times of disturbance.

The main threats to forest biodiversity include habitat loss, fragmentation, degradation, invasive alien species and climate change. Many human impacts are creating habitat loss, fragmentation and the degradation of the landscape. The building of roads, urban sprawl, recreation, logging and agriculture greatly decrease the number of species. This not only affects forest biodiversity but the biodiversity of all species living with and depending on the trees. With fragmentation, seeds are not able to spread and invasive species are more likely to expand into forest ecosystems and out compete native vegetation. Climate change is also a major threat to forest biodiversity. With temperature changes, trees may not be able to adapt quickly enough.

## 7.2 Native insects and diseases

Native insects and disease can cause severe impacts on forest ecosystems through defoliation and mortality. However, these ecosystem changes are not always a negative thing, as it can help to renew forests by removing older trees and allowing younger regenerating trees to thrive. Species can cause outbreaks periodically, and have large-scale impacts on healthy forests. An example of this is the spruce budworm, which has periodic outbreaks in the Boreal forest. The outbreaks can be quite large in size, and repetitive years of defoliation can inevitably cause mortality. In addition, mortality of trees leaves behind high quantities of fuel sources that pose issues with wildfires.

### 7.2.1 Spruce budworm

The spruce budworm (*Choristoneura fumiferana*) is a native forest insect that inhabits the spruce-fir forests of northeastern North America. Outbreaks of this insect generally occur every 30 to 40 years. During this cycle, populations of spruce budworm range from being very low (endemic) to very high (epidemic). If left unmanaged, these outbreaks can result in millions of hectares of dead fir and spruce trees. During past epidemics, forest managers would wait until budworm numbers were high and the trees were at risk of dying before intervening. A foliage protection approach was used and insecticides were applied over large areas with the objective of keeping the trees alive until the epidemic cycle ended.

The previous outbreak of spruce budworm in Atlantic Canada ended around 1990. Since then, natural controls (natural enemies and climatic factors) have kept numbers at almost undetectable levels.



Adult (above) Larvae (below)



Aerial view of defoliation caused by spruce budworm

Spruce budworm prefer to feed on the tender current-year shoots of balsam fir and spruce. The spruce budworm's prefers balsam fir and during severe uncontrolled outbreaks, up to 85% of the mature balsam fir can be killed by spruce budworm. Mortality in spruce is also significant with up to 30-40% mortality of mature spruce occurring during severe uncontrolled outbreaks.

Spruce budworm damage starts in May. Evidence of an infestation includes the destruction of buds, abnormal spreading of new twigs, defoliation of current-year shoots and the presence of large numbers of larvae suspended from strands of silk.

Defoliation begins at the top of the tree and quickly progresses to the edge of the crown from the top downwards. Current-year needles are partially or completely consumed and, if large numbers of larvae are present, previous-year needles may also be affected. Spruce budworm larvae also feed on

male (pollen) and females (cones) reproductive structures. During epidemics, the larvae may destroy all of the cones.

A single year of defoliation generally has little impact on the tree. However, it does cause weakening of the tree, making it more susceptible to attacks by other insects. Defoliation over a few consecutive years causes tree growth loss. However, if defoliation continues uninterrupted over several years, tree mortality will occur. Balsam fir, the species most vulnerable to spruce budworm attacks, will begin to die after four consecutive years of severe defoliation.

In 2006, a new outbreak started in Quebec and, as of 2019, covered over 9.6 million hectares – an area greater than the province of New Brunswick. By 2014, the outbreak was approaching northern New Brunswick and was posing a threat to the forests of New Brunswick and Atlantic Canada.



### Early intervention: A new approach to manage spruce budworm outbreaks

#### What drives spruce budworm outbreaks?

A question that has puzzled scientists for decades is why do budworm outbreaks occur? The debate centers between two competing theories: “the oscillatory theory” and the “double-equilibrium theory”. The answer to this question is very important for forest managers as it could affect which method to use to control budworm numbers.

#### Oscillatory theory (predator-prey relationship)

The oscillatory theory is essentially a predator-prey relationship between the spruce budworm and its natural enemies (i.e. predators, parasites, diseases and the environment). These natural enemies are responsible for the collapse of budworm outbreaks and help keep budworm numbers low between outbreaks. However, low budworm numbers also causes a reduction in budworm enemies, which gives the budworm a competitive advantage. When conditions are favourable, this may lead to rapid population increase resulting in a spruce budworm outbreak.

A core belief of the oscillatory theory is that outbreak cycles occur over large areas and develop over a relatively short time. Another belief is that moth dispersal does not play a strong role in the spread of the outbreak. The oscillatory theory suggests that range-wide spruce budworm outbreaks are inevitable and that the traditional approach of foliage protection to keep trees alive is the right one.

#### Double-equilibrium theory (creation of epicentres)

The basis of the double-equilibrium theory is that spruce budworm populations can be at equilibrium at both endemic and epidemic stages. Outbreaks originate in areas where budworm populations escape the natural and environmental controls that keep populations low. When this happens, budworm numbers can rise quickly creating a hotspot or epicentre.

One important difference between the two theories is the role that moth dispersal plays in outbreaks. Under the double-equilibrium theory budworm moth movement from hotspot areas can supplement existing budworm populations or establish new populations in areas largely free of budworm. If moth movement is a factor, then it may be possible to prevent an outbreak by treating hotspots as soon as they appear thus keeping budworm numbers low.

This approach may have worked in 2006 when the current outbreak was starting in Quebec but would fail now as the budworm outbreak in Quebec is well into the epidemic stage. This key difference in how budworm outbreaks evolve provides an opportunity for the testing of a proactive approach to managing spruce budworm outbreaks.



Budworm moths from outbreak in Quebec (Campbellton, NB 2016)

### Early intervention strategy

By 2014, the budworm epidemic in Quebec had grown to 4.6 million hectares and was approaching the northern border of the province. An early intervention strategy (EIS) was undertaken to explore if it could be used to control hotspots at the leading edge of an outbreak with the objective of limiting further spread or reducing the magnitude of an outbreak in New Brunswick.

The EIS relies on intensive sampling to identify areas where spruce budworms are beginning to rise and treating these areas with biological insecticides to keep numbers low. The area treated in northern New Brunswick increased from 10 000 ha in 2015 to 220 000 ha in 2018, then dropped dramatically to 10 000 ha in 2019 and then increased slightly in 2020.

The sharp drop in budworm numbers in 2019 occurred over a large portion of eastern Canada. The reason for the decrease is uncertain but is likely because of environmental and biological conditions that gave the enemies of the budworm a competitive advantage. This decrease in budworm numbers during an outbreak is not new having occurred during previous outbreaks in New Brunswick in the 1950s and 1970s.

In the past, budworm numbers rebounded and quickly returned to high numbers. This does not appear to be the case this time. Under traditional foliage protection, areas are treated when budworm numbers are high and trees are at risk of dying. A decrease in budworm numbers under this scenario is temporary as numbers are still high and populations are able to recover quickly. Under the EIS, budworm numbers are kept at much lower levels and when natural factors cause budworm to drop the population does not appear to be able to recover as quickly.

The risk of a budworm outbreak in Atlantic Canada still exists as the outbreak in Quebec continues. The last massive moth dispersal event in New Brunswick was in 2016 but moths continue to move into the province on an annual basis. Researchers remain cautiously optimistic that the EIS is a viable strategy to control budworm populations and potentially prevent large-scale outbreaks. The spruce budworm issue is extremely complex and the answer to the question of whether EIS will work will not be known until the outbreak in Quebec has ended.

### 7.2.2 Forest tent caterpillar

The forest tent caterpillar (*Malacosoma disstria*) is the most widespread defoliator of deciduous trees. Its range extends from coast to coast.



Infestations are generally short and parasitoids are very important in the natural control of populations. The most important parasitoid is the large flesh fly, which acts quickly after the start of an infestation, and can destroy up to 80% of the pupal population.



Defoliation is caused by the caterpillar, which begin to feed on the new leaves as soon as they appear in May. Given this insect's voracious appetite and gregarious behaviour throughout most of its development, its presence can be quickly detected. Older larvae devour entire leaves and, when the tree is completely defoliated, migrate in search of other sources of food. Larvae can also be observed in colonies on tree trunks sheltered from the sun's rays. During massive invasions, trees can be completely defoliated over large areas. Even when severely defoliated, trees withstand infestations relatively well. Infestations generally last no more than three consecutive years. Denuded trees will produce another crop of leaves during the season.

### 7.2.3 White pine weevil



The white pine weevil (*Pissodes strobi*) occurs throughout the range of white pine in eastern Canada.

Damage is caused mainly by the larvae, which feed under the bark of the tree's terminal leader. Feeding punctures made by the adult weevils can also damage the leader.

The presence of the insect is easily detected by the drooping, wilted appearance of the current year's leader, which resembles a shepherd's crook.

Tree mortality due to the white pine weevil is rare. In white pine with recurring annual damage, wood quality is affected, reducing merchantable timber volume by sometimes up to 60%.



### 7.3 Invasive Species

Invasive alien species are plants, mammals, fish, insects, other invertebrates, birds, reptiles, molluscs, microbes, and diseases that are introduced to an area and survive and reproduce, causing harm economically or environmentally within the new area of introduction. Invasive species can have devastating impacts on our native forest ecosystems because they can outcompete native species. Invasive species are introduced through a variety of means from importing goods from other countries, ballast water in ships, within wood containers, and through recreation. Their management can be challenging because the impact of the new species is often unknown. Risk analysis and prevention are essential in protecting our environment, economy and society from the impact of invasive species.

#### 7.3.1 Dutch elm disease

Dutch elm disease was introduced into Canada around 1940. The fungus causes a vascular wilt that results in browning of the foliage and kills affected trees. Because their sap supply is cut off and fungal toxins poison them, the affected parts of the tree wilt and eventually die; this process can take a few days or a few years. The fungus develops in the sap-conducting tissues of elm trees, under the bark.



Adult beetle



Exit holes on bark



Feeding galleries

The disease is transmitted by bark beetles. These insects dig galleries beneath the bark of weakened trees where they can reproduce. Once spring arrives, the bark beetles, which have in the meantime become covered by spores from the causal fungus, migrate toward healthy trees and begin feeding. The beetles thus contaminate new hosts and spread the disease.

#### 7.3.2 Gypsy moth

The gypsy moth (*Limantria dispar*) was introduced to the United States in 1869 and has become one of the most serious defoliators of hardwoods in North America.

Gypsy moth damage is caused exclusively by the caterpillars, which feed on developing leaves in May. Newly hatched larvae are hairy and black and feed by chewing small holes in the surface of the leaves. Older larvae devour entire leaves. The body of the larvae are dark-coloured and hairy, with red and blue spots on the back. Full-grown larvae can be up to 65 mm long.



The females, which are too heavy to fly, lay up to 1000 eggs per mass, often near the pupation site.

### 7.3.3 Emerald ash borer (EAB)

The emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) is native to eastern Asia. This pest was first discovered in Canada and the U.S. in 2002. It has since spread to 34 US states and 5 Canadian provinces. In 2018, it was found in New Brunswick (Edmundston) and Nova Scotia (Bedford near Halifax). In 2019 it was found in two other locations in NB: Oromocto (near Fredericton) and Moncton.



The EAB has killed millions of ash trees in Southwestern Ontario, Michigan and surrounding states, and poses a major economic and environmental threat to urban and forested areas in both countries.



The EAB attacks and kills all species of ash (except Mountain ash which is not a true ash). Adult emergence starts with the month of June and ends with the end of July. A few days after mating, female lay eggs, one at the time, in bark crevices. One female lays between 60 and 90 eggs during its lifespan. Larvae dig S shaped galleries in the phloem in order to feed themselves. They hibernate in the bark and pupate in April or May.

While the EAB can fly up to several kilometres, another significant factor contributing to its spread is the movement of firewood, nursery stock, trees, logs, lumber, wood with bark attached and wood or bark chips.

### 7.3.4 Butternut canker

Butternut canker infects butternut trees through buds, leaf scars, insect wounds and other openings in the bark. It is believed that rain splashing can move the fungal spores from infected branches to other branches and that insects and birds may inadvertently carry the spores to the trees. A characteristic sign of infection in a butternut is cankers that leak a blackish fluid from cracks in the bark after a rainfall or in humid weather. These cankers coalesce and eventually girdle the main trunk, killing the tree. Controlling infected trees is not possible. This fungal disease is a fundamental threat to butternut and has caused this species to die out throughout much of its natural range.



In 2005, butternut was listed as Endangered by the Species at Risk Act (SARA) in Canada.

### 7.3.5 Beech bark disease

Beech bark disease results from the combined action of the beech scale insect and a pathogenic fungus, *Nectria coccinea*. Most affected beech end up succumbing to the disease, either directly or as a result of being attacked by other pathogens. In mid-summer, the female deposits her eggs in the bark fissures. The larva hatches and stays in the same place or migrates to other cracks. In fall, the nymph becomes stationary again and secretes a woolly envelope. This woolly envelope makes the tree look like it is covered with snow.

The scale insect over winters in the bark of the tree. The fungal spores are disseminated by rain splash or by the wind and penetrate into the tree through wounds created by the scale insect. The fungus first causes a depression in the bark of the affected region and cankerous blisters of various sizes also form. On severely affected trees, there are so many cankers that they end up merging. Although the disease is widespread, some trees (around 4-5 %) appear to not be affected.



### 7.3.6 Brown spruce longhorn beetle

In March, 1999, the brown spruce longhorn beetle (*Tetropium fuscum*) was found in dying red spruce trees in Point Pleasant Park, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

In its native range in Europe, the brown spruce longhorn beetle is recognized mainly as a secondary forest insect, attacking trees that have already been subjected to other types of insect attack or environmental stresses. During a population outbreak, beetles can attack living, healthy trees.



Symptoms of attacked trees include:

- streams of resin scattered along the trunk;
- holes in the bark about 4 mm across;
- networks of feeding tunnels just under the bark, up to 6 mm across;
- tunnels in the wood about 4 mm deep and 6 mm wide. These tunnels appear L-shaped when the wood is cut longitudinally.
- Coarse sawdust may be found in and around tunnels or plugging the exit hole
- 

BSLB is now found throughout most of Nova Scotia and has recently been discovered in southeastern New Brunswick.

## 8.0 CLIMATE CHANGE AND CANADA'S FOREST

### 8.1 Canada's forests in a changing climate

The climate is changing and so are Canada's forests. Increased numbers of large fires, greater drought frequency and intensity, shifting patterns of disease and invasive insect outbreaks: all of these trends over the last five decades are impacting Canada's forests and have even resulted at times in loss of jobs and homes in some communities.

How the climate will continue changing is difficult to predict. But because Canada is a northern country, the changes are expected to be greater than the global average. How Canada's forests will respond is also hard to know. However, scientists and other researchers are working to find answers that will reduce these uncertainties.

If global efforts to address climate change are successful in limiting the world's increase in temperature to 2°C, the increase in Canada is still forecast to average 4°C by 2100.

With the likelihood of new climate conditions, forests are expected to evolve, and in some areas become quite different from what they are now. Species composition, average age, geographic range and growth rates are all likely to change over the coming decades. This makes adaptation by the forest sector – such as planting drought-tolerant species – more important than ever.

At the same time as they are affected by climate change, forests can also be part of mitigating (reducing) it. Trees absorb carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) from the atmosphere and store it in their trunks, roots, branches and leaves. Increasing the area and growth of forests therefore reduces the amounts of greenhouse gases (GHG) in the atmosphere, helping to slow temperature rise. Using wood products and bioenergy also helps lessen the need for products made with processes that result in high GHG emissions and reduces the use of fossil fuels.

Canada's scientists have long been studying how changing climate conditions are affecting the country's forests. Among the most notable impacts observed:

- Milder, drier climatic conditions over the past 50 years are thought to be a major reason for longer fire seasons and the increase in the number of severe forest fires and the size of areas burned.



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- In the 2000s, a series of warmer-than-usual winters enabled the mountain pine beetle to flourish and spread across much of central British Columbia. The outbreak killed more than 750 million cubic metres of mature lodgepole pine – a loss of more than 10 years' worth of the province's annual harvest. Researchers report that the beetle, now in north-central Alberta, the Northwest Territories and Saskatchewan (well beyond its natural historical range), may continue spreading east in the coming decades. It has already moved into new tree host species.
- The current spruce budworm outbreak in the Mackenzie River delta in the Northwest Territories is taking place at the highest latitude ever recorded for such an infestation.
- The increase in the rate of premature death of healthy trees in many forest types over the past few decades is likely the result of drought-related or other climate-triggered outbreaks of insects in weakened forests. Drought conditions have also contributed to the death or stunted growth of trees in several parts of Canada, including white spruce in Yukon (from spruce bark beetle infestation) and aspen in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Ontario.

## 8.2 How forests could look in the future

Research on the biological, economic and social implications of climate change for Canada's forests and forest industry is constantly improving our understanding of what the potential changes might be and how they could affect forest habitat and biodiversity, timber supply and communities.

Most areas in Canada, for example, are expected to experience at least a two-fold increase in annual area burned by forest fires and a 1.5-fold increase in the number of large fires by the end of the 21st century. This means that the average age of the country's forests is likely to decline in some areas, with increases in the number of young trees regenerating in burned out areas.

Forest growth rates and the distribution of species may change gradually, too. Climate conditions have already shifted, affecting the distribution of certain tree species in Canada. The rate of climate change is projected to be 10 to 100 times faster than the ability of tree species to migrate. This means that some tree species will benefit (for example, growing faster or spreading more widely), while others will become increasingly stressed, potentially dying out over time.

Such changes pose broader ecological consequences as well, affecting vegetation and wildlife, which would need to adapt or migrate under changing climate and forest habitat conditions.

Adapting to climate change means adjusting decisions and activities to take into account observed or expected changes in climate. In the forest sector, that means integrating climate change knowledge into sustainable forest management planning and practices to help maintain both ecosystem integrity and the flow of social, economic and environmental benefits. Planting a greater diversity of tree species in a forest, for example, is one way of reducing the forest's vulnerability to future insect infestation or fire risks.

Adaptation measures are specific to a region and forest type and therefore vary widely. What best suits the local environmental and socio-economic needs in a region on the east coast might not offer the best solution on the west coast or in the northern boreal forest.

Adaptation will also be important to industry and communities as they adjust to the changing forests they rely on. Harvest levels, for instance, may need to be reduced as more-frequent natural disturbances reduce the available timber supply. Forest companies will need to increase their efforts

to find innovative ways to use more dead or low-quality wood salvaged from burned areas or areas invaded by insects or disease. Communities located in forested areas are already being encouraged to be “fire smart” by clearing trees and general forest brush (living and dead) from areas between buildings and forest.

### 8.3 Using Canada’s forests to help mitigate climate change

At the climate change conference in Paris in December 2015, Canada joined the international community in aiming to achieve near-zero GHG emissions by 2050. Canada has committed to a 30% reduction in its emissions (below 2005 levels) by 2030. Further emission reductions will be needed after that in order to meet the international ambition of keeping the global temperature increase to below 2°C.

Given the current and projected impacts of climate change on Canada’s forests, it may seem counterintuitive to think that forests can also be part of the climate change solution. However, the carbon-storing capacity of forests, together with the ability of wood products to replace fossil-fuel-intensive products, can contribute to keeping CO<sub>2</sub> out of the atmosphere.

The ways in which forests are managed (tended, harvested and regenerated) and harvested wood is used can therefore make important contributions to Canada’s efforts to meet its climate change commitments. Among the mitigation actions being considered by various jurisdictions are the following:

- **Increase the overall forest area** – Landowners could plant new forests on lands not currently part of the managed forest.



- **Use sustainable forest management practices that reduce GHG emissions and store carbon**



Forest managers could limit on-site burning of harvest waste (such as stumps, bark and branches), using it for bioenergy instead; make more complete use of the material harvested; speed up reforestation after natural disturbances; and increase growth rates in appropriate locations through intensive management.

- **Use more wood in construction**

Builders could use more wood from sustainably managed forests in non-traditional construction applications in place of other materials whose manufacture, use and disposal involve higher amounts of GHG emissions. The practicality and environmental benefits of using wood in construction are already being demonstrated in ever larger and taller wood buildings.



- **Use more wood waste for energy and other bioproducts**

Industry and individuals could increase the use of waste wood for energy to replace fossil fuels or use bioproducts that replace similar products made from fossil fuels.



Some of the emission-reducing benefits from these activities would be immediate. Other benefits would take more time to achieve. For this reason, the sooner mitigation actions are undertaken, the more they will help Canada meet its GHG emission reduction target for 2030 and its longer-term move to a low-carbon economy.

#### 8.4 Adapting to climate change in Canada’s forests

##### Planting tree species with greater drought tolerance

Drought conditions reduce tree growth and productivity and can lead to tree mortality. Researchers are studying plant traits to identify tree species with greater drought tolerance and increased ability to reproduce following drought.

##### Fire-proofing neighbourhoods and communities

As fire activity in many regions increases, communities and homeowners are conducting hazard assessments and following FireSmart recommendations – for example, selecting fire-resistant plants with moist, supple leaves for landscaping and removing potential fuel such as dry grasses and dead branches from around homes.



##### Planting trees from a wider range of seed sources to maintain productivity

A tree planted today will mature in a warmer climate and may not grow as well in that regime. Foresters are therefore planting seedlings from a range of seed sources, favouring species from southern or lower-elevation populations – sources already adapted to warmer conditions.

##### Adjusting forest harvest schedules to minimize severe insect damage

As the incidence of severe insect infestations increases, foresters can adjust harvest schedules to remove vulnerable stands of trees ahead of pest attacks and harvest insect-damaged trees to maintain overall stand health.



##### Reducing damage to forests from wind storms

As temperatures warm, the early thaw and delayed freezing of soils provide less support for tree roots, making them more prone to uprooting during spring and fall wind storms in eastern Canada. Silviculture techniques such as varying the size and shape of harvest blocks and leaving patches can help reduce forest vulnerability to wind damage.



##### Finding ways to use the wood from dead and damaged trees

To offset the effects of damage to forests caused by insect and disease outbreaks, forest companies are salvage-logging and adjusting wood-processing techniques to create new products from dead and lower-quality trees.



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