

GLOSSARY

Abiotic – Non-living components of the environment, such as air, rocks, soil, water, peat, and plant litter.

Afforestation – Establishment of trees on an area that has lacked forest cover for a very long time (at least 50 years, according to the Kyoto Agreement definition).

Age class – Any interval into which the age range of trees, forests, stands, or forest types is divided for classification. Forest inventories commonly group trees into 20-year age classes.

AGS – Acceptable growing stock or crop trees, i.e., good quality trees with high potential value.

All-aged – All, or almost all, age classes of trees represented. Also called uneven-aged.

Basal area (BA) of a tree – The cross-sectional area of a tree (at chest height) usually expressed in square feet or square metres.

Of a forest or stand: the area in square metres per hectare or square feet per acre of the cross-section at chest height of all the trees.

Biomass – Weight (amount) of all organic matter in a given ecosystem. It also refers to plant material that can be burned as fuel.

Biotic – Living components of the environment or ecosystem (such as plants, animals, insects and fungi).

Board feet (foot) – Measurement term for lumber or timber. It's the amount of wood contained in a board 1 inch thick, 12 inches long, and 12 inches wide.

Cambium – Single layer of cells between the woody part of the tree and the bark. Division of these cells results in diameter growth of the tree through the formation of wood cells (xylem) and inner bark (phloem).

Carbon sequestration – Uptake and storage of carbon.

Carbonates – Free calcium carbonate in the soil profile. Can interfere with nutrient uptake for some species.

Climax forest – Forest community that represents the final stage of natural forest succession for its environment.

Codominant – In stands with a closed canopy, those trees whose crowns form the general level of the canopy and receive full light from above, but comparatively little from the sides.

Crop tree – Tree in a young stand or plantation selected to be carried through to maturity until an interim or final harvest. One of the better trees in the stand.

Crop tree selection – Selecting individual crop trees that exhibit desired characteristics (usually for maple sap or timber production). Crop trees are generally left for future use and not harvested at the time of selection.

Density – See stand density.

Diameter at breast height (DBH) – Stem diameter of a tree measured at breast height (1.30 m [4 ft] above ground level).

Diameter distribution – Ranges in tree sizes (diameters) representing stages in the development of a tree or stand.

Dominant – Trees with crowns extending above the general level of the canopy and receiving full light from above and partly from the side; taller than the average trees in the stand with well-developed crowns.

Early successional forest – Forest type characterized by fast-growing, shade-intolerant tree species.

Even-aged – Forest stand or forest type in which relatively small age differences (10–20 years) exist between individual trees. Even-aged stands are often the result of fire, a harvesting method such as clearcutting, the shelterwood method, or land abandonment.

Exotic species – Non-native species found in a given area as a direct or indirect result of human activity. Also refers to captive or free-ranging non-native animals.

Group selection – Selecting or clearing a number of trees in close proximity in order to create a small opening in the forest. Usually done to promote the establishment of mid-tolerant species.

Hybrid Poplar – Poplar trees selected or bred for rapid growth to produce fibre or wood products or act as a nurse crop.

Income in-kind – Measure of the value of agricultural commodities produced on farms and consumed by individuals living on these farm operations.

Invasive species – Harmful alien species whose introduction or spread threatens the environment, human health, and/or the economy.

Management prescription – Also known as silvicultural prescription of stand. A stand-specific operational plan that prescribes methods of harvest and renewal.

Marginal land – Agricultural land of limited potential productivity.

Moisture regime – Classification of the moisture available to trees throughout the growing system. There are four classes: dry, fresh, moist and wet.

Mottles – Rust-coloured spots in the soil profile, which mark the depth of the seasonal water table.

Pioneer species – Also see early successional forest. A tree species that is usually first to grow on a disturbed or open site.

Plantation – Forest crop established by artificial means, either by sowing or planting.

Reforestation – Natural or artificial restocking (i.e., planting, seeding) of an area with forest trees. Under the Kyoto Agreement, reforestation occurs when an area that has not been open for more than 50 years is returned to a forested state.

Riparian buffer strip – Buffer of trees and other vegetation between an agricultural area and a riparian feature (e.g., stream, wetland).

Sawlog – Log harvested for wood products – usually timber or lumber.

Silvics – Study of the life history and general characteristics of forest trees and stands.

Silviculture – Art and science of controlling the establishment, growth, composition, health and quality of forests and woodlands.

Silvipasture – Practice of growing trees with pasturing livestock.

Site preparation – Treatment of the soil and ground vegetation in preparation for planting.

Soil texture – Percentage of sand, silt and clay found in a particular soil.

Species composition – Percentage of each recognized tree species comprising the forest type based on the gross volume, the relative number of stems or the basal area per hectare or acre.

Stand – Community of trees sufficiently uniform in species composition, age, arrangement, and condition to be distinguishable as a group from the forest or other growth on the adjoining area, and thus forming a silvicultural or management entity.

Stand density – A quantitative measure of the amount of stocking in a forest area. Often described in terms of stems or basal area per hectare (or acre).

Succession – The natural and gradual replacement of one community of trees and plants by another.

Tree marking – A system of identifying specific trees in the forest. Trees are usually marked with different colours of paint depending on the type of tree identified. Trees are usually marked for removal as crop trees or as boundary trees.

Uneven-aged – All, or almost all, age classes of trees represented. Also called all-aged.

UGS – Undesirable growing stock, i.e., poor quality trees and trees with low potential value.

Wedge prism – Optical instrument used as an angle gauge consisting of a thin wedge of glass that establishes a fixed (critical) angle of projection in a fixed-radius sample plot.

Working group – Similar tree species associations commonly found in forest stands and grouped for the purpose of applying a common set of silvicultural treatments. Similar to forest cover type.

Agencies and Offices

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Eastern Ontario Model Forest
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Canada



ONTARIO STEWARDSHIP



Publications

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES SERIES

Buffer Strips
Establishing Tree Cover
Farm Forestry and Habitat Management
Fish and Wildlife Habitat Management

EASTERN ONTARIO MODEL FOREST

A Guide to Improving and Maintaining Sugar Bush Health and Productivity
A True Picture: Taking Inventory of Your Woodlot
Choosing the Right Tree: A Landowner's Guide to Putting Down Roots
Design, Installation and Maintenance of Plastic Tubing Systems for Sap Collection in Sugar Bushes
Eastern Ontario Model Forest Code of Forestry Practice

ONTARIO MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Extension Notes Series (approximately 55 titles) – Landowner Resource Centre, Manotick, Ontario
Guide to Stewardship Planning for Natural Areas
Silvicultural Guide to Managing Southern Ontario Forest

MNR also has a series of guide books regarding forest practices to protect and improve wildlife habitat, watersheds, and other values. Please see the Publications section of their website.

ONTARIO SOIL AND CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Ontario Environmental Farm Plan Workbook

ONTARIO WOODLOT ASSOCIATION

A Landowner's Guide to Selling Standing Timber

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