

EASTERN DECIDUOUS

Deciduous hardwoods are climax throughout most of the eastern U.S. Most forests have been cut one or more times. Forests are at their most diverse and the trees are largest in, and just west of, the southern Appalachians (in the cove forests). Species composition decreases as one radiates out from this center.

Major Tree Species:

beech, yellow buckeye, cucumber magnolia, white and American basswood, yellow poplar, sugar maple, white oak, Eastern hemlock, plus numerous associates (silverbell, black cherry, red oak, etc.)

In Vermont:

Northern Hardwoods: Major "climax" species are sugar maple, beech, yellow birch. Associated species include: hemlock, basswood, red oak, black cherry, white ash, etc.

Bottomland Species: Include boxelder, green ash, black willow, Eastern cottonwood, American elm.

High Elevation (Boreal) Species: Includes red spruce, balsam fir, heart-leaf paper birch.

Oak-Hickory Forest: Extends out in all directions from the cove forests, except northward. The area included much of the Piedmont plateau and Atlantic Gulf Coastal Plains and forms a northern arc to Minnesota.

- Climax species varies depending upon site:

- Post oak and blackjack oak are climax on dry sites, with hickory, overcup oak, willow oak, etc. on moister sites. Bur oak is dominant in the Savannah-like transition to grasslands from Texas to Minnesota.

- Because of considerable abandoned farmland, there are several old-field species including: Virginia pine in the north, and shortleaf and loblolly pines on upland sites in the south. On lowland sites, early-successional species include sweetgum, yellow poplar, sycamore, river birch, red maple, elm and hackberry.

- Fire maintained pines - Primarily pitch pine in the north and loblolly, slash, and longleaf pines in the more southern states.

- Several undrained sites include:

1. pocosins and bays - sweetbay magnolia, red bay, etc.
2. flooded swamps - bald cypress, water tupelo
3. peat bogs - Atlantic whitecedar