

The Selection System



Tolerant hardwood forests

are characteristic of much of Central Ontario. The term “tolerant” refers to the ability of certain types of trees, like sugar maple and beech, to survive and grow in the well-shaded “understory” of the forest. These forests tend to be “all-aged” - they have all age groups of trees, from very young to very old, represented in the same stand.

**Cycle
Continues**



**Mature Tolerant
Hardwood Forest**



After Another 20-30 Years

The forest is ready for a third cut with removal of another 30% of the trees.



Second Cut

Once again, up to 30% of the mature trees are cut, focusing on the removal of poor quality trees.



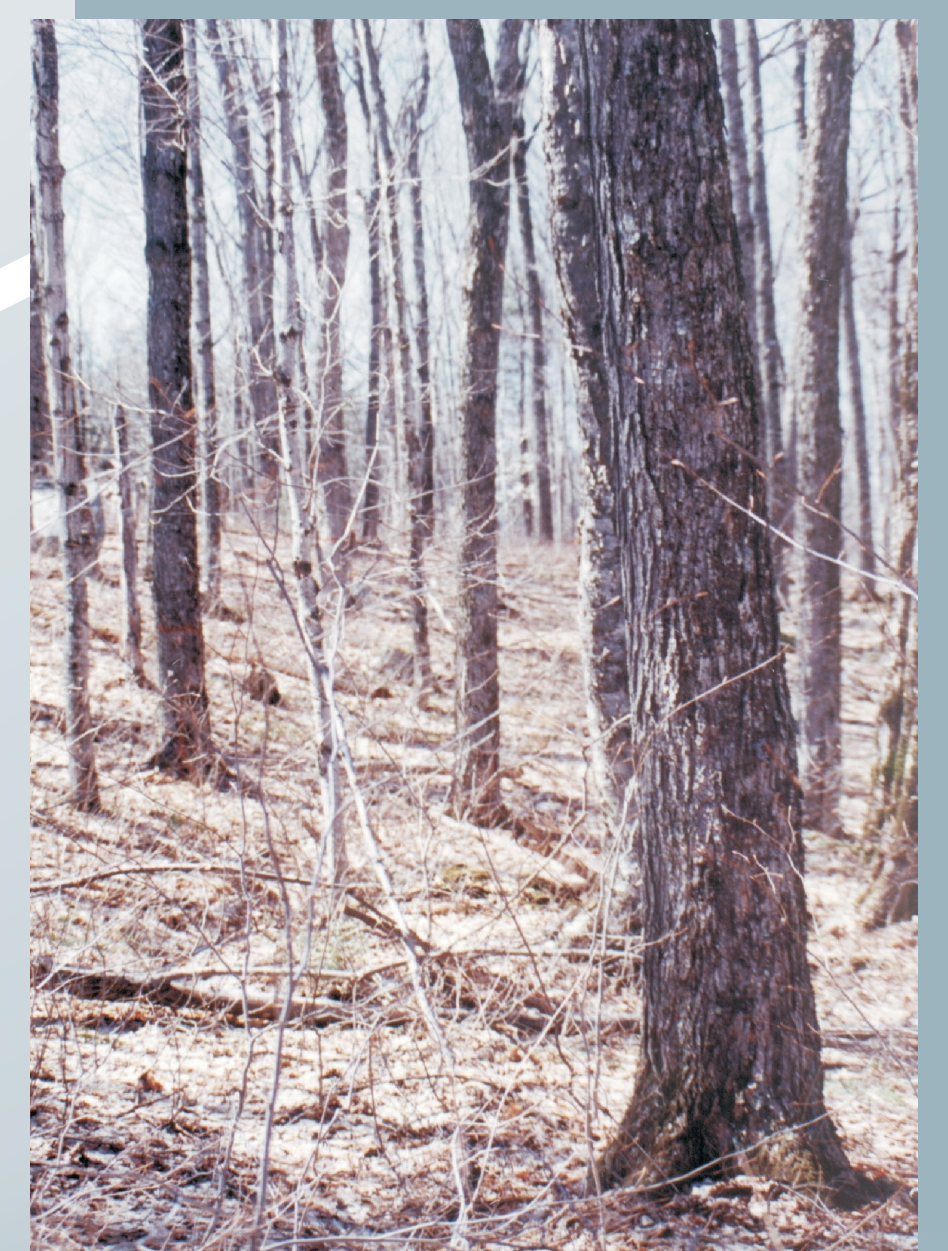
After 20-30 Years

The remaining trees have thrived and the next generation is well-established.



First Cut

Over-mature and poor quality trees (up to 30% of the total) are marked and then cut.



Selection cutting

is used for the majority of shade-tolerant hardwood forests. About every 20 to 30 years, individual mature and declining (diseased or unhealthy) trees are cut. The growth rate and quality of the remaining trees improves, and young trees of the shade-tolerant species become established in the mostly-shaded understory. Selection cutting imitates minor natural disturbances like wind and disease, and perpetuates an “all-aged” tolerant hardwood forest.