**Temperate or sub-polar needleleaf forest** Forests generally taller than 3 metres and accounting for more than 20% of total vegetation cover. The tree crown cover consists of at least 75% needle-leaved species.

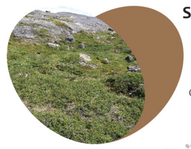
**Sub-polar taiga needleleaf forest** Forests and woodlands with trees generally taller than 3 metres, accounting for more than 5% of total vegetation cover, with shrubs and lichens commonly present in the understory. The tree crown cover consists of at least 75% needle-leaved species. This type occurs across northern Canada and may consist of treed muskeg or wetlands. Forest canopies are variable and often sparse, with generally greater tree cover in the southern parts of the zone than in the north.

**Temperate or sub-polar broadleaf deciduous forest** Forests generally taller than 3 metres and accounting for more than 20% of total vegetation cover. These forests have more than 75% of tree crown cover represented by deciduous species.

**Mixed forest** Forests generally taller than 3 metres and accounting for more than 20% of total vegetation cover. Neither needleleaf nor broadleaf tree species make up more than 75% of total tree cover, but they are codominant.

**Temperate or sub-polar shrubland** Areas dominated by woody perennial plants with persistent woody stems, less than 3 metres tall and typically accounting for more than 20% of total vegetation cover.

**Temperate or sub-polar grassland** Areas dominated by graminoid or herbaceous vegetation, generally accounting for more than 80% of total vegetation cover. These areas are not subject to intensive management such as tilling, but can be used for grazing.



**Sub-polar or polar shrubland-lichen-moss** Areas dominated by dwarf shrubs with lichen and moss, typically accounting for at least 20% of total vegetation cover. This class occurs across northern Canada.

**Sub-polar or polar grassland-lichen-moss** Areas dominated by grassland with lichen and moss, typically accounting for at least 20% of total vegetation cover. This class occurs across northern Canada.

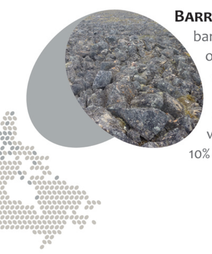
**Sub-polar or polar barren-lichen-moss** Areas dominated by a mixture of bare areas with lichen and moss, typically accounting for at least 20% of total vegetation cover. This class occurs across northern Canada.





**Wetland** Areas dominated by perennial herbaceous and woody wetland vegetation which is influenced by the water table at or near surface over extensive periods of time. This includes marshes, swamps, bogs, etc., either coastal or inland, where water is present for a substantial period annually.

**Cropland** Areas dominated by intensively managed crops. These areas typically require human activities for their maintenance. This includes areas used for the production of annual crops, such as corn, soybeans, wheat, vegetables, and tobacco; perennial grasses for grazing; and woody crops such as orchards and vineyards. Crop vegetation accounts for more than 20% of total vegetation. This class does not represent natural grasslands used for light to moderate grazing.



**Barren land** Areas characterized by bare rock, gravel, sand, silt, clay, or other mineral material, with little or no "green" vegetation present regardless of its inherent ability to support life. Generally, vegetation accounts for less than 10% of total cover.

**Urban and built-up** Areas that contain at least 30% urban constructed materials for human activities (cities, towns, transportation, etc.).

**Water** Areas of open water, generally with less than 25% of non-water cover types. This class refers to areas that are consistently covered by water.

**Snow and Ice** Areas characterized by a perennial cover of ice and/or snow, generally accounting for more than 25% of total cover.

## Mapping Canada's Land Cover

The Canada Centre for Mapping and Earth Observation (CCMEO) has used satellite imagery to create a land cover map of Canada at a resolution of 30 metres. This map is part of the 2010 Land Cover Map of North America, produced by Canada, the United States and Mexico under the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC)'s North American Land Change Monitoring System (NALCMS). The Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) facilitated the project. This is the first of a series of maps, that will be produced using Landsat data collected at five year intervals.

Using remote sensing to accurately describe physical qualities of Canada is vital to understanding our natural resources. Land cover classes describe the physical surface of the ground and include the make-up of vegetation, urban infrastructure, water, and bare soil. Land cover mapping supports land-management strategies for environmental, social, and economic sustainability.

Tracking how land cover changes over time is necessary for natural resources management, policy, and planning. It is also important for a range of environmental applications, such as climate change impact monitoring, emergency response, and wildlife habitat mapping.

Produced by the Canada Centre for Mapping and Earth Observation, Natural Resources Canada

Natural Resources Canada, General Information Product 119e, version 2010

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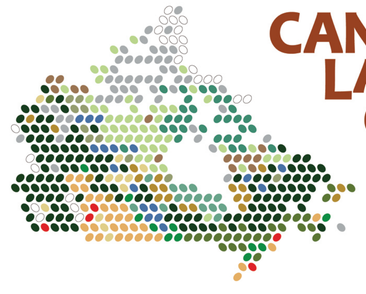
**Cette publication est aussi disponible en français.**



# Canada's Land Cover

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