

CANADA

LAND CAPABILITY FOR FORESTRY

Produced by the Geographical Services Division, Canada Centre for Mapping, Energy, Mines and Resources Canada. Printed 1988.

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Scale 1:7 500 000 or 1 centimetre represents 75 kilometres
kilometres 0 75 150 225 300 375 450
Lambert Conformal Conic Projection, Standard Parallels at 48°N and 77°N.
Modified Mercator Projection, North of Latitude 60°.

LAND CAPABILITY FOR FORESTRY

LAND CAPABILITY FOR FORESTRY CLASSES¹

- Class 1** Land with no important limitations for the growth of commercial forests.
The productivity, based on the native species best adapted to the site, is usually greater than 7.0 cubic metres per hectare per year.
- Class 2** Land with slight limitations for the growth of commercial forests.
The productivity, based on the native species best adapted to the site, is usually from 6.4 to 7.7 cubic metres per hectare per year.
- Class 3** Land with moderate limitations for the growth of commercial forests.
The productivity, based on the native species best adapted to the site, is usually from 5.0 to 6.3 cubic metres per hectare per year.
- Class 4** Land with moderately severe limitations for the growth of commercial forests.
The productivity, based on the native species best adapted to the site, is usually from 3.8 to 4.9 cubic metres per hectare per year.
- Class 5** Land with severe limitations for the growth of commercial forests.
The productivity, based on the native species best adapted to the site, is usually from 2.2 to 3.5 cubic metres per hectare per year.
- Class 6** Land with very severe limitations for the growth of commercial forests.
The productivity, based on the native species best adapted to the site, is usually from 0.8 to 2.1 cubic metres per hectare per year.

- Class 7** Land unsuitable for the growth of commercial forests.
The productivity, based on the native species best adapted to the site, is usually less than 0.8 cubic metres per hectare per year.
- Unclassified Land** Land which has not been classified according to forestry capability².
- Canada Land Inventory Boundary³.

Notes

- The map is based on information obtained from the Canada Land Inventory and the Canada Land Data System.
The Canada Land Inventory program was designed in the early 1960's to provide a basis for land use planning. Under this program, the land's capability for agriculture, wildlife, recreation and forestry were recorded.
The land capability for forestry classification is an inventory ranking of land which considers environmental factors related to tree growth. The classification is based on the physical limitations of the land for forest growth and its capability to produce a given quantity of wood of a stated species. The classes reflect the severity rather than the kind of limitations. There are seven capability classes. Class 1 contains the best lands for commercial tree growth, while those in Class 7 cannot be expected to yield timber in commercial quantities.
The mineral and organic soils are rated according to their inherent ability to grow commercial timber. All known or inferred information about the land, such as soil profile, depth, moisture, fertility, land forms, climate and vegetation is taken into account. In a capability class, location, access, distance to market, size of units, ownership or present use are not considered. The Canada Land Inventory classification provides a national standard. However, because each province was mapped independently, regional variations do occur; therefore, caution should be used in comparing the classification from province to province.
The productivity associated with each class is based on the mean annual increment of the native species best adapted to the site at or near rotation age. This measure is the average annual volume growth that has occurred up to a given age. To achieve the productivity associated with each class, good forest management is necessary.
- The mapping limits are defined by the extent of the survey information in 1984. Within the Canada Land Inventory boundary some national or provincial parks and military reserves have not been classified.
- The Canada Land Inventory boundary was selected to include areas where significant land use conflicts were thought to be possible. In southern Saskatchewan and Alberta, there is no commercial forest capability because the arid climate severely limits forest growth. Since no conflict with agriculture was foreseen, this area was not classified.
Ontario and Alberta have both extended the land capability classification north of the Canada Land Inventory limit to provide additional information for forest management. Generalized information on all of British Columbia is also available.

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Source: Environment Canada, Lands Directorate, Canada Land Inventory/Inventaire des terres du Canada, Land Capability for Forestry (in production) on 8mm disc & soft. Map, Alberta Province (1975), Quebec (1978), Ontario (1974), Manitoba (1977), Saskatchewan (1976), Alberta (1976), British Columbia (1984), Scale 1:1 000 000, Ottawa.
Howard, W.D. 1972. Limiting Factors in Land and Soil Capability Assessment. Senior given at the University of Alberta, October 1972. Environment Canada, Northern Research Centre File, Report NCR-2-72. Edmonton.
McCormack, R.J. 1972. Land Capability Classification for Forestry. Canada Land Inventory Report Number 4. Lands Directorate, Environment Canada, Ottawa.
Rees, W.E. 1977. The Canada Land Inventory in Perspective. Canada Land Inventory Report Number 12. Lands Directorate, Fisheries and Environment Canada, Ottawa.
Additional information was supplied in the form of computer-generated maps at the scale of 1:2 000 000 from the Canada Land Data System (Lands Branch, Environment Canada) for parts of British Columbia, Alberta and Ontario.