

Appendix C - Forest Types

- AF Abandoned Field - Any abandoned field reverting back to forest. No longer in active agriculture.
- AL Alder - An early successional stand dominated by alder, often in a shrubby form.
- AO Abandoned Orchards - Usually apple orchards abandoned around former farms, used only where more than 10 trees are observed.
- BB Beech / Birch / Maple - The true northern hardwood type - sugar maple, yellow birch and beech are the component species; many associated species and variation in proportion. Climax type throughout western Massachusetts.
- BC Black Cherry - A stand in which northern hardwoods predominate with black cherry the most common species. Due to its intolerance to shade, this stand only follows heavy cutting or other disturbance.
- BE Beech - Stands predominantly beech with some sugar maple. Due to past cuttings, stands may be predominantly beech.
- BF Basins and Flats
- BG Bogs - An acidic body of water with no in or outflow of water. Species along the shoreline are often black spruce, sheep laurel, etc. Occasionally a floating mat of sphagnum moss is present.
- BL Black Locust - Black locust is pure or predominant. Often, initially the result of artificial reforestation. Many associated species. Common on Cape Cod and statewide on former agricultural land.
- BM Gray Birch / Red Maple - Gray birch and red maple predominant. Generally a pioneer type found on abandoned fields, tend towards dry sites but found in some moist areas.
- BP Beaver Pond - A pond, usually shallow, created when beavers dammed the outflow. These ponds are important wildlife habitat features which often dead standing trees are present.
- BR Upland Brush
- BW White Birch - White birch is pure or predominant. Pioneer type that is succeeded by spruce-fir, white pine or northern hardwoods.
- CD Cedar - Either Atlantic white cedar or eastern red cedar are predominant over any other associate.
- CT Christmas Trees - Christmas tree plantation.
- DF Duff and Leaf Litter - Soil covered with leaf or needle litter layer with little or no other reproduction. Common under pure softwood stands and mature hardwoods.
- FN Fern – Any species of fern.
- GF Grass and Forbs - An area covered with a variety of herbaceous grass and forb species. May have an occasional tree seedling present.

- HH Hemlock / Hardwoods - Hemlock and yellow birch dominates the mixture with sugar maple, beech and red oak as associates. Found on moist sites.
- HK Hemlock - Eastern hemlock is pure or predominant over many associates. Found throughout Massachusetts but more prevalent west of Connecticut River. Often is the result of cutting of pine in a WK stand. Uncommon as a natural pure stand.
- JN Juniper – May be a mixture of juniper species but most likely red cedar. Often found in abandoned pastures.
- LA Laurel - Stands that are dominated by mountain laurel. Occurring where the tree species were harvested without sufficient regeneration and the existing mountain laurel was not removed.
- MA Sweet Fern
- MD Deep Marsh - Water depth ranges from six inches to three feet. Fairly large open water areas are bordered by, or interspersed with, emergent vegetation like that found in shallow marsh. Floating and submergent plants such as water lilies, duckweed, watershield and pondweeds are also present.
- MS Shallow Marsh - This type is wetter than meadow. The soil is completely water-logged and often covered with up to six inches of water during the growing season. There is usually some open water and the predominant vegetation is emergent, including such plants as cattails, bulrushes, burreed, pickerelweed and arrowhead with some grasses and sedges present.
- MT Salt Marsh - Areas that are dominated by a variety of salt-tolerant grasses.
- MW Meadow - Standing water is present only for short periods during the spring. Soil waterlogged during the growing season. vegetation is predominantly grasses, rushes and sedges.
- NV No Vegetation - Rock or gravel banks or open administrative land - roads, etc.
- OC Chestnut Oak - Dry ridgetops, shallow to bedrock soils, S and W slopes, laurel understory.
- OH Oak / Hardwoods - Stands predominantly black, white and red oak with associates of maple and birch. If treated, these stands usually become either red oak or northern hardwood.
- OM Mixed Oak - Stands contain mixtures of red, white, black and scarlet oak, hickories and other associated hardwoods. Oaks predominate.
- OP Open - Reserved for either bare land just prepared for tree planting or as the understory type for essentially ground cover overstory types.
- OR Northern Red Oak - Northern red oak is predominant with other hardwoods being the chief associates.
- OT Scarlet Oak - Dry sites - black oak and white pine as associates.

- OW White Oak – Uncommon as a pure type.
- PA Poplar, Aspen, or Willow - Stands dominated by quaking aspen, bigtooth aspen, or willow. Paper birch, pin cherry and red maple are common associates of this pioneer type.
- PC Pin Cherry - This is a temporary type usually found for a few years after a clearing operation (either clear cutting or after a fire). Common associates are mixtures of many hardwoods.
- PO Pitch Pine / Oak - Pitch pine predominates with scarlet or black oak. In Massachusetts found intermixed with the pure pitch pine type. It is usually the result of fire or cutting.
- PP Pitch Pine - Pitch pine is pure or predominant. Chief associates are eastern white pine, scarlet and black oak. Found on dry soils predominantly near the coast, Cape Cod and Plymouth County, and scattered outwash sites in Worcester, Franklin and Hampden Counties.
- PS Pitch Pine / Scrub Oak - Scrub oak as used here is the shrub-like Quercus ilicifolia found primarily on the Cape, the Islands, and Plymouth county
- RM Red Maple / Swamp Hardwoods - These stands are pure or contain mixtures of red maple, silver maple, black and green ash, American elm, river birch and sycamore. A large number of associated species are found in these rich forested wetlands.
- RP Red Pine - Although able to reproduce naturally, red pine is mostly found in plantations.
- RU Rubus Species - Areas dominated by a variety of species from the Rubus genus, i.e. black raspberries, red raspberries, bristly dewberry.
- RZ Riparian Zone
- SF Spruce / Fir - Stands consist predominantly of red or black spruce and balsam fir. Common associates are red maple and paper birch, aspen and tamarack. Found only as a natural stand in Berkshire and northern Franklin counties predominantly on wetter sites.
- SM Sugar Maple - Sugar maple is either pure or predominant. Small proportions of other northern hardwoods are found. Often the results of sugarbush management.
- SN Norway Spruce - Norway spruce is either pure or predominant and is the result of artificial reforestation.
- SP Scotch Pine - Scotch pine is pure or predominant. Usually found in abandoned Christmas tree plantations or where it has naturally spread from these areas.
- SR Spruce (Red) - Stand dominated by red spruce and associated hardwoods such as yellow birch, sugar maple, red maple, and beech. Natural stands are found predominantly in Berkshire, northern Franklin and northern Hampshire Counties at high elevations.
- SS Shrub Swamp - The soil is waterlogged during the growing season and is often covered with as much as six inches of water. Common woody species are alder, buttonbush, dogwood and willow. Sedges are usually found on tussocks.

- TK Tamarack (Larch) - Tamarack is pure or predominant in the stand. Always associated with moist or wet sites. Uncommon and found mostly in very scattered stands.
- VA Vaccinium species - Areas dominated by any number of Vaccinium species, i.e. blueberries or huckleberries.
- VI Viburnum species - Areas dominated by Viburnum species, i.e. hobblebush, nannyberry, wild-raisin, arrowwood.
- VP Vernal Pool - An area that collects water during the fall or spring and retains the water until June or July. Often there is no in or outflow. These are important breeding grounds for numerous amphibian and invertebrate species because fish are not present.
- WA Open Water - Lakes, rivers and large streams. Water depth is greater than three feet during the growing season. The boundary of coastal water is located by drawing a line at the river mouth to connect the edges of the coastline, or man-made features like roads, railroads or bridges crossing rivers or inlets are used to establish it.
- WH White Pine / Hardwoods - Eastern white pine and northern red oak and other hardwoods with red maple as the chief associate. Rarely a permanent type but tends to develop into WK or HH.
- WK Eastern White Pine and Eastern Hemlock - A large assortment of hardwoods found with these conifers. Pine usually predominates. Although found in all counties, more usually found in Plymouth, Worcester and counties west.
- WO White Pine/Oak – Eastern white pine and northern red oak or black oak predominate. Black, red or scarlet oak are also associates. An assortment of hardwoods are associated.
- WP White Pine - Eastern White Pine is pure or predominant. Self sustaining on drier sandy soils.