

Fact Sheet #13 Forest Land Resources



Assistance for Forest Owners

Woodlands are a valuable asset that can provide harvestable timber, firewood, and agroforestry products, including maple syrup and edible mushrooms, when properly managed. Silvopasture is healthy forest management that includes livestock rotation.

Here are some good starting points to learn about forest resources and management:

- [The New England Forestry Foundation](#) provides educational resources on conservation and sustainable forestry.
- Cornell University Cooperative Extension's [Forest Connect](#) provides educational resources for forest owners, loggers, and educators.
- [Massachusetts Forest Landowners Association](#) hosts workshops and has written publications about forest management.
- Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation's [Bureau of Forestry](#) has resources on forest health, lumber marketing, and urban forestry, as well as contact information for state foresters who can answer your questions.
- Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation's [Forest Stewardship Program](#) is an educational non-regulatory program designed to help landowners protect the ecosystem values of their forest.
- Rainforest Alliance's [SmartWood Certification](#) sets the international standard for credibility in auditing environmentally and socially responsible forestry.
- [Forest Stewardship Council](#) coordinates and certifies sustainable forest management standards throughout the U.S.

Getting Technical Advice

The Department of Conservation and Recreation's Bureau of Forestry has Service Foresters available to assist you in understanding forest management options free of charge. To find a Service Forester near you, check the Bureau of Forestry's [website](#) or call [800] 783-2311. For additional assistance, you may employ a licensed private forester, who can help with development of forest management plans required for participation in the Forest

Stewardship Program. Private foresters can also serve your needs if you wish to negotiate the sale of your timber resources. UMASS Amherst has [information](#) on why you might choose to use a private forester.

Forestland Tax and Regulations

Massachusetts has tax rates specific to certified forest land. Under the [Forest Land Tax Law](#) [Chapter 61], an incentive is provided for ten-year management plans on forest lands. The Massachusetts [Forest Cutting Practices Act](#) [Chapter 132] and associated regulations set forth practices for the sustainable maintenance of forest resources.

Purchasing Tree Seedlings

The [National Nursery and Seed Directory](#) allows you to search for seed and seedling providers by location. Also try your local [Conservation District](#), as many sell tree seedlings. If you are interested in seeds and not seedlings, check out www.directseeding.org. Finally, some members of the [Massachusetts Tree Wardens and Foresters' Association](#) also sell seedlings and small trees for transplant.



Agroforestry Options

Interested in knowing the potential of your woodlands for products other than timber and firewood? Check out the following websites for details:

- Cornell's [How, When, and Why of Forest Farming Resource Center](#) will introduce you to principles and practices of forest farming.
- Cornell's [Agroforestry Resource Center](#) supports integrating timber production with other crops and forest related income opportunities.
- Cornell's [Introduction to Silvopasturing in the Northeast](#)
- ATTRA's [Agroforestry Overview](#) provides background on agroforestry principles.
- [Massachusetts Maple Producers Association's website](#)
- Massachusetts Forest Landowners Association's [Becoming a Tree Farmer](#) explains the process of becoming a certified woodlot owner.
- Northeastern Area Association of State Foresters' [A Forest Landowner's Guide to Internet Resources](#)