Intolerant Hardwood Forest Group

IH

(n = 145)

IH1	Large-tooth aspen / Lambkill / BrackenIH1a Red oak variant
IH2	Red oak – Red maple / Witch-hazel
IH3	Large-tooth aspen / Christmas fern – New York fern
IH4	Trembling aspen / Wild raisin / Bunchberry
IH5	Trembling aspen – White ash / Beaked hazelnut / Christmas fern
IH6	White birch – Red maple / Sarsaparilla – Bracken IH6a Aspen variant
IH7	Red maple / Hay-scented fern - Wood sorrel

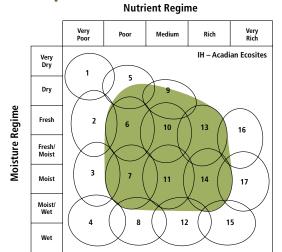
Concept: This group represents early to mid successional hardwood Vegetation Types (VT) found mainly on zonal sites within the Acadian Ecosite group. Red maple, white birch, grey birch and aspens are the dominant species. Vegetation types cover a range of soil moisture and nutrient regimes due (in part) to the ability of hardwoods in this group to adapt rooting patterns to site conditions. Well developed shrub and herb layers along with reduced bryophyte/lichen cover are typical. These are generally short-lived, evenaged forests that result from stand-level disturbance events.

Vegetation: Vegetation types are mainly closed canopy forests dominated by shade intolerant to intermediate hardwoods (red maple, white birch, grey birch, trembling aspen, large-tooth aspen, and to a lesser extent red oak and white ash). Overstory species occur in pure or mixed combinations, often with scattered residuals from the previous stand present. The shrub layer can be extensive with regenerating trees and typical woodland species such as wild raisin, serviceberry and honeysuckle. On poorer sites witch-hazel and ericaceous species will also be present. Herb diversity is usually high but variable depending on site conditions and overstory quality. Poorer sites will have bracken, mayflower and teaberry, whereas better sites will have species such as sarsaparilla, asters, goldenrods and grasses. The bryophyte layer is usually poorly developed.

Environmental Setting: Vegetation types in this group are found on a range of sites – the most broadly defined group in the FEC system. Moisture and nutrient regimes range from dry to moist and poor to rich. Soils are mainly derived from glacial till deposits. This group is found throughout the province as matrix forest or various size patches, although certain VTs are more ecoregion specific (e.g. red oak VTs in the Western (700) ecoregion).

Successional Dynamics: This group is mainly associated with early successional zonal VTs, but some types are more edaphic in nature. Red maple on tolerant hardwood sites should be considered mid-successional. Where red oak occurs this species will continue to form a component of future successional stages due to its longevity. Seed dispersal and clonal/coppice regeneration are two effective strategies that allow intolerant hardwoods to quickly establish themselves in stands that have been disturbed by harvesting, fire, or windthrow. These species also serve as a protective layer as more shade tolerant, late successional species start to regenerate in the understory.





Ecological Features

These are early to mid successional, small to large patch forests. Short-lived overstory species colonize sites rapidly after disturbance acting as a 'nurse crop' for later successional species to develop in the understory. Many trees from this group can stump sprout and/or root sucker enabling stands to perpetuate after repeated disturbances. Sites with extensive ericaceous shrub and bracken cover usually occupy poorer sites, while better sites typically support well developed herb layers and frequent levels of white ash. Mature trees and stumps are prone to infection by shoe-string root rot, a widespread family of parasitic fungi. Regenerating stands provide important browse for deer, moose and snowshoe hare. Stands adjacent to streams are used by beavers to provide food and raw materials for lodge and dam building. Older stands may provide habitat for great crested flycatcher, grey catbird, yellow warbler, chestnut-sided warbler, common yellowthroat and ruffed grouse.



IH1

Large-tooth aspen / Lambkill / **Bracken**

Populus grandidentata / Kalmia angustifolium / Pteridium aquilinum

IH1a Red oak variant

Ouercus rubra

n=21

Black River Road. Cumberland County

Concept: This early successional Vegetation Type (VT) has an overstory dominated by large-tooth aspen accompanied by a strong component of red maple. The IH1a variant describes stands where red oak is a significant part of the overstory. IH1 has a well-developed understory of disturbance-tolerant woody and herbaceous plants, but reduced bryophyte cover. Largetooth aspen / Lambkill / Bracken usually follows stand-replacing disturbance events such as fire, windthrow or clearcutting. Most large-tooth aspen originates as vegetative regeneration from root suckers.

Vegetation: Large-tooth aspen and red maple are dominant overstory trees, but the latter species is usually less abundant. White birch, white pine and red oak are common associates – with red oak co-dominant in variant IH1a. The shrub layer is well developed, including wild raisin, serviceberry, velvet-leaf blueberry and bush-honeysuckle. The presence of regenerating balsam fir, red maple, red oak, white pine and black spruce indicate possible successional stages of this ecosystem. In the herb layer, species indicative of poor, dry conditions include bracken, teaberry, round-leaved pyrola, mayflower, pink lady's slipper and/or princes'-pine. The bryophyte layer is poorly developed.

Environmental Setting: IH1 is mainly associated with dry to fresh, nutrient poor soils of glacial origin. Soils and sites are often stony. This VT is found mainly in the Western ecoregion, but is also scattered across mainland Nova Scotia on a variety of soils with low nutrient status. IH1 is common in central and southern New Brunswick but somewhat rare elsewhere in that province and on Prince Edward Island. The VT IH1a is even less common in New Brunswick and absent from Prince Edward Island.

Successional Dynamics: IH1 is an early successional VT that follows stand-level disturbances in both softwood and hardwood forests. Typical disturbance agents include fire, windthrow and harvesting. IH1 stands are typically dominated by even-aged, clonal-origin large-tooth aspen. The shortlived aspen will deteriorate due to natural senescence, with mortality further accelerated by insect predation, disease and/or wind damage. Possible successional VTs include IH2 (Red oak - Red maple / Witch-hazel), SP6 (Black spruce -Red maple / Bracken - Sarsaparilla), SP9 (Red oak - White pine / Teaberry) and SH4 (Red spruce - White pine / Lambkill / Bracken).

Ecological Features

This early successional small patch forest is short lived. Large-tooth aspen is a very shade-intolerant tree and its regeneration is primarily through clonal reproduction from root suckers (which may support large fungal associates such as shoe-string root rot). Aspen colonizes sites rapidly after stand-level disturbances. It acts as a "nurse crop"

for later successional species that tend to grow up through the aspen, forming two-layered stands before the aspen is overtaken and dies out. Regenerating aspen stands provide cover and forage for many species. Moose and deer feed on its leaves and twigs, ruffed grouse eat its winter buds, snowshoe hare and mice consume its bark and twigs, and

beavers make its bark a dietary staple. Resin from aspen buds is the primary source of bee propolis, an essential hive material. Older aspen trees provide soft snags and cavities for several bird species. Aspen support many insects, most notably the forest tent caterpillar which is an important food for birds and small mammals.

Characteristic	IH1		IH1a	
Plants	Freq. (%)	Cover (%)	Freq.	Cover (%)
Large-tooth aspen	100	66.2	100	38.6
Red maple	92	14.0	89	23.5
White pine	54	6.9	22	7.0
White birch	46	4.5	56	6.0
Black spruce	31	5.0	33	11.0
White spruce Red oak	31 31	4.5 3.5	100	18.2
Trembling aspen	23	0.1	11	5.0
Balsam fir	15	5.0	22	3.5
Hemlock	15	0.1		
Grey birch	8	2.0	11	4.0
Tree Layer (Mean % Cover)		89		88
Red maple	92 92	2.8	78	4.9
Serviceberry Balsam fir	92 85	0.8 6.3	78 89	0.1 3.0
Wild raisin	85	2.1	78	0.2
Velvet-leaf blueberry	77	4.0	78	2.9
Lambkill	69	9.4	89	15.8
Red oak	69	1.3	89	0.7
White pine	69	0.9	67	0.8
Black spruce	54	3.0	67	6.3
Lowbush blueberry Bush-honeysuckle	54 54	2.3 0.3	67	1.3
Beaked hazelnut	38	4.4	11	0.1
Striped maple	38	1.1	44	2.8
Witch-hazel	38	0.6	44	12.7
White spruce	31	2.9		
Fly-honeysuckle	31	0.2	33	0.8
Large-tooth aspen Beech	31 15	0.2 0.4	56 22	0.8 5.3
Huckleberry	8	0.4	33	12.0
Shrub Layer (Mean % Cover)	31		42
Sarsaparilla	100	4.6	78	4.0
Wild lily-of-the-valley	100	1.4	89	1.0
Bracken	92	15.3	89	6.9
Teaberry	69	10.6	89	11.9
Starflower	69	3.4	100	1.1
Partridge-berry Bunchberry	54 54	7.2 3.4	67 67	0.3 2.8
Ground pine	54	1.5	11	0.6
Pink lady's slipper	54	0.1	33	0.1
Round-leaved pyrola	46	0.5	22	0.2
Mayflower	38	1.3	44	0.3
Wood aster	38	1.1	33	0.1
Indian cucumber root Indian pipe	38 38	0.1 0.1	33 44	0.3 0.1
Painted trillium	38	0.1	22	0.1
Bluebead lily	31	0.5	56	0.1
Cow-wheat	31	0.1	22	0.1
Princes'-pine	15	0.5	33	0.8
Herb Layer (Mean % Cover)		35		26
Schreber's moss	77	0.8	89	0.6
Broom moss	62	1.0	78	0.7
Hypnum moss	46 46	1.0	78	1.2
Hair-cap moss Wavy dicranum	46 15	0.8 1.1	33 56	0.8 0.2
Stair-step moss	8	0.3	44	1.2
Bryo-Lichen Layer (Mean %		2		3
,, ,				

These hardwood forests occur on well drained, nutrient poor sites dominated by large-tooth aspen.

Ericaceous shrubs as well as mayflower, teaberry, round-leaved pyrola, bracken fern, pink lady's slipper and princes'-pine are common. Red oak is diagnostic for the variant IH1a.



Large-tooth aspen

Site Characteristics

Slope Position: Level⁵ Middle² Upper² Crest¹ Surface Stoniness: (Non - Slightly)⁶ (Moderately)²

(Very - Excessively)2

Bedrock Outcrop: (Non-rocky)9

(Slightly - Moderately)1

Elevation Range: 15 - 189m

Level⁵ Gentle² Other² nd¹ Slope Gradient:

Aspect: North² East¹ South¹ West¹ None⁴ nd¹ Exposure: Moderate⁷ Mod. exposed² Other¹ Microtopography: Slightly⁵ Moderately³ Strongly¹

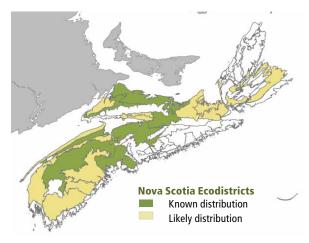
Other1

Well⁵ Moderately well³ Imperfect¹ Drainage:

Rapid1

Soil Characteristics

ST13 ST23 ST2-L2 ST61 nd1 Soil Type: Glacial till⁸ Glaciofluvial² Parent Material: Rooting Depth (cm): $(<30)^1(30-45)^2(>45)^6 nd^1$ Duff Thickness (cm): $(0-5)^4(6-10)^4(11-40)^1 nd^1$







Quercus rubra – Acer rubrum / Hamamelis virginiana

IH2a

Quercus rubra

n=24

Red oak variant

Holden Lake. Lunenburg County

Concept: This early to mid-successional Vegetation Type (VT) has a mixed hardwood overstory with a strong component of red oak. It is the prominence of red oak that distinguishes this unit from other intolerant hardwood VTs. Stands dominated by red oak are described by variant IH2a, a condition that possibly results from earlier fire and/or harvesting disturbances. Red oak - Red maple / Witch-hazel usually follows stand-replacing disturbance events and is almost exclusively a Western ecoregion VT. Sometimes embedded within an IH2 site is the woodland OW5 (Red oak / Huckleberry / Cow-wheat - Rice grass / Reindeer lichen).

Vegetation: Red oak, red maple and white birch are the dominant overstory trees, along with occasional large-tooth aspen, black spruce and balsam fir. The overstory may also include a few scattered white pine in a super canopy position. These relict trees are usually survivors of past disturbance events. The shrub layer is well developed, often including wild raisin, serviceberry, velvet-leaf blueberry, witch-hazel and/or lambkill, along with regenerating trees (especially red oak, red maple, balsam fir and white pine). In the herb layer species indicative of poor, dry conditions include bracken, teaberry, round-leaved pyrola, mayflower, pink lady's slipper and/or princes'-pine. The bryophyte layer is poorly developed.

Environmental Setting: IH2 is mainly associated with dry to fresh, nutrient poor soils of glacial origin. Soils and sites are often stony. This VT is abundant throughout the Western ecoregion, especially in the South Mountain, Western Barrens, Rossignol and Sable ecodistricts. It is also occasionally found in central Nova Scotia on a variety of soils with low nutrient status. This VT is relatively rare in New Brunswick, where it is largely restricted to the south. It is extremely uncommon on Prince Edward Island.

Successional Dynamics: Relatively dry, nutrient poor soils associated with this VT may lead to an edaphic climax community dominated by red oak, white pine and black spruce. Historically, stand maintaining fires would have reduced understory fuel loads and promoted red oak and possibly white pine presence until the overstory was destroyed by intense canopy fire. (Although the role of low intensity fires in red oak development is not well understood, it appears to be an important component of successional history in some stands.) IH2 can develop from IH1 (Large-tooth aspen / Lambkill / Bracken) stands and, once established, can maintain itself or transition to SP9 (Red oak – White pine / Teaberry). As the potential impacts of fire are reduced through management, IH2 could succeed to SP4 (White pine / Blueberry / Bracken) or on better sites to SH4 (Red spruce – White pine / Lambkill / Bracken).

Ecological Features

This early to mid-successional large patch forest occurs primarily in western Nova Scotia. Red oak is intermediate in shade tolerance and may occur in both the understory and overstory. This tree is a valuable mast producer for wildlife species including small mammals, bear, ruffed grouse and deer. Growth of oak regeneration may be enhanced by understory fire, which promotes vigorous sprouting from seedlings and saplings and gives them a competitive advantage. Red maple regenerates quickly as coppice and is a favoured browse by

deer and moose. Mature red maple flower before most other spring plants, providing one of the most important early and abundant pollen and nectar sources for a wide range of insects. Oak is the preferred host of maitake (or henof-the-woods) mushroom.

Characteristic	IH2		IH2a	
Plants	Freq. (%)	Cover (%)	Freq.	Cover (%)
Red oak	100	32.2	100	59.4
Red maple	100	31.3	93	14.1
White pine	58	5.7	29	2.3
White birch Balsam fir	50 50	9.2 7.0	43 7	7.3 3.0
Black spruce	25	10.0	29	3.8
Yellow birch	25	6.7	7	15.0
Red spruce	17	25.0	14	0.5
Beech Sugar maple	17 17	12.5 4.5	7 14	2.0 1.5
Large-tooth aspen	8	15.0	14	11.5
White spruce			14	2.5
Tree Layer (Mean % Cover)		87		83
Red maple Red oak	100 100	2.5 2.4	93 86	6.5 6.3
Balsam fir	75	2.4 9.0	43	6.3 1.4
Wild raisin	75	0.6	71	1.9
Velvet-leaf blueberry	67	4.3	79	7.0
White pine	67	0.7	50	5.4
Red spruce Witch-hazel	58 50	4.2 11.3	36 64	0.5 2.8
Black spruce	42	6.5	36	2.6
Lambkill	42	3.0	79	10.1
Serviceberry	42	2.1	43	0.3
Striped maple	33	9.0	29	2.8
Beech Huckleberry	33 25	4.3 7.3	21 43	3.4 16.5
Sugar maple	25	7.5 1.9	14	2.5
Lowbush blueberry	17	2.8	64	11.3
Large-tooth aspen			21	0.5
Shrub Layer (Mean % Cover		38		41
Sarsaparilla Wild lily-of-the-valley	100 92	2.5 1.2	57 64	3.0 1.1
Bracken	83	5.2	79	11.9
Starflower	83	1.3	93	0.3
Bunchberry	75	3.5	57	0.8
Partridge-berry	67	4.0	50	0.8
Mayflower Teaberry	67 67	0.8 0.2	36 57	2.6 22.1
Bluebead lily	58	0.7	21	0.1
Indian cucumber root	58	0.3	43	0.4
Indian pipe	58	0.1	36	0.1
Goldthread	50 42	2.1	7 21	2.0
Pink lady's slipper Wood aster	42	0.2 0.1	14	0.1 0.5
Princes'-pine	33	0.6	14	3.1
Painted trillium	33	0.1	36	0.3
Twinflower	25	3.3	14	10.0
Interrupted fern	25	0.2	14	19.1
Hay-scented fern Lions paw	25	0.1	14 29	21.5 1.8
Herb Layer (Mean % Cover)		19		43
Broom moss	92	1.6	86	0.8
Hypnum moss	83	2.5	71	1.4
Stair-step moss Schreber's moss	67 58	1.3 1.4	14 71	1.6 2.4
Grey reindeer lichen	25	0.2	29	2.4 7.5
Bryo-Lichen Layer (Mean %		6		8

This hardwood forest occurs on well drained, nutrient poor sites dominated by red oak and red

maple. Ericaceous shrubs, as well as mayflower, teaberry, round leaf pyrola, bracken fern, pink lady's slipper and princes'-pine are common. Red oak is diagnostic for the variant IH2a.



Witch-hazel

Site Characteristics

Slope Position: Upper⁶ Middle³ Other¹

(Moderately)5 (Very - Excessively)4 Surface Stoniness:

(Non - Slightly)1

Bedrock Outcrop: (Non-rocky)8

(Slightly - Moderately)2

Elevation Range: 11 - 184m

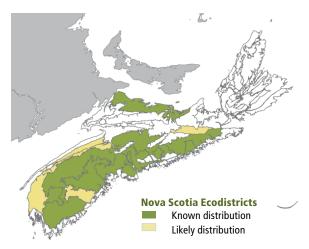
Slope Gradient: Gentle7 Level1 Moderate1 nd1 North1 East4 South2 West2 None1 Aspect: Exposure: Moderate⁵ Mod. exposed⁵ Slightly⁴ Moderately⁴ Strongly² Microtopography: Drainage: Well⁷ Moderately well² Other¹

Soil Characteristics

Soil Type: ST24ST2-G3ST2-L2ST61nd1

Parent Material: Glacial till8 nd2

Rooting Depth (cm): $(<30)^1(30-45)^3(>45)^5 nd^1$ Duff Thickness (cm): $(0-5)^4(6-10)^3(11-20)^2 nd^1$







Large-tooth aspen / Christmas fern - New York fern

Populus grandidentata / Polystichum acrostichoides -Thelypteris noveboracensis

n=12

Lily Lake, Annapolis County

Concept: This early successional Vegetation Type (VT) has an overstory dominated by large-tooth aspen and a variable mix of shade-tolerant hardwood species, balsam fir and red spruce. It is similar to IH1 (Large-tooth aspen / Lambkill / Bracken) but it is found on richer sites, as evidenced by a change in herbaceous cover and tree species composition. Large-tooth aspen / Christmas fern – New York fern usually follows stand-replacing disturbance events such as fire, windthrow or clearcutting. Most large-tooth aspen originates as vegetative regeneration from root suckers.

Vegetation: Large-tooth aspen is the dominant overstory tree, but a variety of other species can also be found including red maple, sugar maple, yellow birch, white ash, balsam fir and red spruce (among others). The shrub layer is moderately developed and includes regenerating trees, fly-honeysuckle, serviceberry and wild raisin. The herb layer has many plants indicative of moist and/or fertile site conditions including interrupted fern, New York fern, sensitive fern, bladder sedge, Christmas fern, lady fern, oak fern and large-leaved aster. The bryophyte layer is poorly developed.

Environmental Setting: IH3 is mainly associated with fresh to moist, nutrient medium to rich soils of variable texture. This VT is found scattered throughout western and central Nova Scotia. IH3 is relatively uncommon across southern New Brunswick and on Prince Edward Island.

Successional Dynamics: IH3 is an early successional VT that follows stand-level disturbances in both softwood and hardwood forests. Typical disturbance agents include fire, windthrow and harvesting. IH3 stands are usually dominated by even-aged, clonal-origin large-tooth aspen. Short-lived aspen will deteriorate due to natural senescence, with mortality further accelerated by insect predation, disease and/or wind damage. A mix of shade-tolerant softwoods and hardwoods in the shrub layer allows for a range of possible successional VTs including IH7 (Red maple / Hay-scented fern – Wood sorrel), MW1 (Red spruce – Yellow birch / Evergreen wood fern), MW3 (Hemlock – Yellow birch / Evergreen wood fern), SH3 (Red spruce – Hemlock / Wild lily-of-the-valley), TH1 (Sugar maple / Hay-scented fern), TH2 (Sugar maple / New York fern – Northern beech fern), TH3 (Sugar maple – White ash / Christmas fern), and in western Nova Scotia TH6 (Red oak – Yellow birch / Striped maple).

Ecological Features

This early successional small patch forest is short lived. Large-tooth aspen is a very shade-intolerant tree and its regeneration is primarily through clonal reproduction from root suckers (which may support large fungal associates such as shoe-string root rot). Aspen colonizes sites rapidly after stand-level disturbances acting as a "nurse crop"

for later successional species that tend to grow up through the aspen, forming two-layered stands before the aspen is overtaken and dies out. Regenerating aspen stands provide cover and forage for many species. Moose and deer feed on its leaves and twigs, ruffed grouse eat its winter buds, snowshoe hare and mice consume its bark and twigs, and

beavers make its bark a dietary staple. Resin from aspen buds is the primary source of bee propolis, an essential hive material. Older aspen trees provide soft snags and cavities for several species of birds. Aspen support many insects, most notably the forest tent caterpillar, which is an important food for birds and small mammals.

Characteristic	IH3		
Plants	Freq. (%)	Cover (%)	
Large-tooth aspen Red maple	100	54.5	
Red maple Balsam fir	83 58	10.2 8.1	
Red spruce	50	6.8	
Sugar maple	50	6.4	
White ash Yellow birch	42 33	4.1 5.0	
White birch	33	4.0	
Red oak	33	3.8	
Beech	25	14.0	
White pine Trembling aspen	25 17	1.7 37.5	
White spruce	17	7.5	
Striped maple	17	5.5	
Tree Layer (Mean % Cover)		90	
Balsam fir Red maple	92 83	4.6 0.4	
Fly-honeysuckle	67	0.4	
Striped maple	50	3.0	
Red spruce	50	1.9	
Large-tooth aspen Sugar maple	50 50	1.0 0.9	
Beech	42	2.5	
White ash	42	2.2	
Serviceberry	42	0.4	
Wild raisin Red oak	42 42	0.2 0.1	
White pine	42	0.1	
Yellow birch	33	7.4	
Shrub Layer (Mean % Cover)		14	
Wild lily-of-the-valley	92	1.7	
Starflower	92 75	1.4 3.8	
Sarsaparilla Bluebead lily	67	1.3	
Hay-scented fern	58	3.0	
New York fern	58	1.3	
Bracken Christmas fern	58 58	1.0 0.8	
Interrupted fern	58	0.7	
Wood aster	58	0.6	
Drooping wood sedge	50	0.2	
Evergreen wood fern Violets	42 42	0.1 0.1	
Oak fern	33	1.3	
Rose twisted stalk	33	0.1	
Bristly club-moss Sensitive fern	25 25	0.7 0.5	
Cinnamon fern	25	0.3	
Hawkweeds	25	0.4	
Herb Layer (Mean % Cover)		14	
Broom moss	83	0.4	
Schreber's moss	67 67	0.6	
Hair-cap moss Stair-step moss	67 58	0.4 2.8	
Hypnum moss	42	0.5	
Wavy dicranum	33	0.5	
Bazzania Shaggy moss	33 25	0.1 11.7	
Bryo-Lichen Layer (Mean % Cov		6	

This hardwood forest occurs on well to imperfectly drained, nutrient rich soils and is dominated by large-tooth aspen. Moist site indicators include interrupted fern, cinnamon fern, sensitive fern, bladder sedge, other sedge species and buttercups. Rich site indicators are Christmas fern, lady fern and large leaf aster.



New York fern [John Gillis]

Site Characteristics

Slope Position: Level⁴ Lower² Middle² Upper² Surface Stoniness: (Non - Slightly)⁶ (Moderately)¹

(Very - Excessively)1 nd2

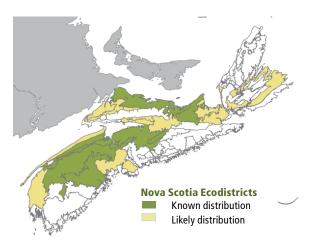
Bedrock Outcrop: (Non-rocky)8 nd2 Elevation Range: 33 - 190m

Gentle⁶ Level³ Moderate¹ Slope Gradient: Aspect: North³ East² South³ None² Moderate⁶ Mod. exposed² nd² Exposure: Microtopography: Slightly⁴ Moderately² Strongly² nd² Moderately well⁵ Imperfect² Poor¹ nd² Drainage:

Soil Characteristics

Soil Type: ST123 ST82 ST112 ST91 ST2-L1 nd1

Parent Material: Glacial till¹⁰ $(30-45)^3 (>45)^5 nd^2$ Rooting Depth (cm): Duff Thickness (cm): $(0-5)^5(6-10)^3 nd^2$





Trembling aspen / Wild raisin / **Bunchberry**

Populus tremuloides / Viburnum nudum / Cornus canadensis

n = 15



Denmark, Colchester County

Concept: Trembling aspen / Wild raisin / Bunchberry forest is an early successional Vegetation Type (VT) dominated by trembling aspen with a strong component of red maple and balsam fir. This VT has a well-developed understory of disturbance-tolerant woody and herbaceous plants, but reduced bryophyte cover. Trembling aspen / Wild raisin / Bunchberry usually follows stand-replacing disturbances events such as fire, windthrow or clearcutting.

Vegetation: Trembling aspen is the dominant overstory tree, with a lesser component of red maple and balsam fir. White spruce, white birch and red spruce are common canopy associates. The shrub layer is often well developed and includes red maple and balsam fir regeneration as well as woody shrubs like wild raisin, lambkill and blueberry species. A variety of plants can be found in the herb layer, but common species are limited to wild lily-of-the-valley, starflower, bunchberry, twinflower, wood aster and bracken. The bryophyte layer is poorly developed but Schreber's moss and broom moss are usually present.

Environmental Setting: IH4 is mainly associated with fresh to moist, nutrient medium soils of glacial origin. This VT is found primarily in the Valley/Central and Northumberland Bras d'Or Lowlands ecoregions. This VT is common on Prince Edward Island and, excluding the highlands, widespread and abundant across much of New Brunswick.

Successional Dynamics: IH4 is an early successional VT that follows stand-level disturbances in both softwood and hardwood forests. Typical disturbance agents include fire. windthrow and harvesting. IH4 stands are usually dominated by even-aged, clonal-origin trembling aspen. Short-lived aspen will deteriorate due to natural senescence, with mortality further accelerated by insect predation, disease and/or wind damage. Possible successional VTs include softwood or mixedwood types such as SH5 (Red spruce – Balsam fir / Schreber's moss), SH6 (Red spruce – Balsam fir / Stair-step moss – Sphagnum) and MW1 (Red spruce – Yellow birch / Evergreen wood fern). On Cape Breton Island MW4 (Balsam fir – Red maple / Wood sorrel - Goldthread) and SH8 Balsam fir / Wood fern / Schreber's moss) are more likely.

Ecological Features

This early successional small patch forest is short lived. Trembling aspen is a very shade-intolerant tree and regenerates primarily through clonal reproduction from root suckers (which may also support large fungal associates such as shoe-string root rot). Aspen colonizes sites rapidly after stand-level disturbances acting as a "nurse crop" for

later successional species that tend to grow up through the aspen. This forms two-layered stands before the aspen is overtaken and dies out. Regenerating aspen stands provide cover and forage for many species. Moose and deer feed on its leaves and twigs, ruffed grouse eat its winter buds, snowshoe hare and mice consume its bark and twigs, and beavers

make its bark a dietary staple. Resin from aspen buds is the primary source of bee propolis, an essential hive material. Older aspen trees provide soft snags and cavities for several species of birds. Aspen support many species of insects, most notably the forest tent caterpillar, which is an important food for birds and small mammals.

Characteristic	IH4		
Plants	Freq.	Cover (%)	
Trembling aspen Red maple Balsam fir White birch White spruce Black spruce Red spruce Large-tooth aspen White pine White ash Grey birch Hemlock Striped maple		(%) 55.7 8.1 16.7 13.0 1.7 9.0 7.5 6.7 3.0 0.1 10.0 5.0 4.0	
Yellow birch Mountain-ash	, 7 7	3.0 0.1	
Tree Layer (Mean % Cover)		88	
Red maple Wild Raisin Balsam fir Trembling aspen Lambkill White ash Serviceberry Velvet-leaf blueberry Lowbush blueberry Black spruce White pine Striped maple Bush-honeysuckle False holly	93 87 80 67 40 40 40 33 33 33 27 27	8.5 2.5 6.6 2.8 2.6 1.5 0.5 15.3 3.1 1.2 0.5 10.2 1.5	
Shrub Layer (Mean % Cover)		32	
Wild lily-of-the-valley Bunchberry Starflower Bracken Twinflower Wood aster Sarsaparilla Evergreen wood fern Cinnamon fern Interrupted fern Bluebead lily Drooping wood sedge Goldthread Shinleaf Teaberry Dwarf raspberry Partridge-berry New York fern	80 73 73 60 53 53 47 47 40 40 33 33 33 27 27 27	1.3 11.0 0.8 7.9 3.8 0.7 2.9 0.5 4.2 0.8 0.2 0.1 0.1 0.1 3.5 1.8 0.7	
Herb Layer (Mean % Cover)		30	
Schreber's moss Broom moss Stair step moss Bazzania Shaggy moss Wavy dicranum Hair-cap moss Hypnum moss Bryo-Lichen Layer (Mean % Cov	73 73 60 53 47 47 33 27	2.8 0.6 1.8 0.9 1.9 0.3 4.2 0.2	

These hardwood forests are dominated by trembling aspen with a strong component of red maple and balsam fir. Aspen root suckers are common in the shrub layer.



Bunchberry

Site Characteristics

Slope Position: Level⁵ Upper³ Lower¹ Middle¹ (Non - Slightly)9 (Moderately)1 Surface Stoniness:

Bedrock Outcrop: (Non-rocky)10 **Elevation Range:** 14 - 123m Slope Gradient: Gentle⁵ Level⁴ nd¹

North¹ South³ West² None⁴ Aspect:

Exposure: Moderate¹⁰

Microtopography: Moderately³ Slightly³ Strongly³ Level¹ Drainage: Imperfect⁵ Moderately well⁴ Well¹

Soil Characteristics

ST65 ST22 ST31 ST3L1 ST91 Soil Type:

Parent Material: Glacial till10

Rooting Depth (cm): $(<30)^1(30-45)^6(>45)^2 nd^1$ Duff Thickness (cm): (0-5)1 (6-10)7 (11-20)1 nd1

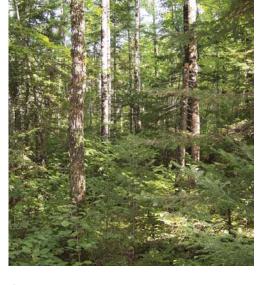




Trembling aspen – White Ash / Beaked hazelnut / Christmas fern

Populus tremuloides – Fraxinus americana / Corylus cornuta / Polystichum acrostichoides

n=9



Angevine Lake, Cumberland County

Concept: This early to mid-successional Vegetation Type (VT) has an overstory co-dominated by trembling aspen and white ash with lesser amounts of red maple and yellow birch. It is similar to IH4 (Trembling aspen / Wild raisin / Bunchberry) but is found on somewhat richer sites, as evidenced by associated shifts in herbaceous cover and tree species composition. Trembling aspen – White ash / Beaked hazelnut / Christmas fern usually follows stand-replacing disturbance events such as fire, windthrow or clearcutting.

Vegetation: Trembling aspen dominates the overstory with a significant component of white ash. Lesser amounts of yellow birch, red maple, sugar maple and balsam fir are also common. The shrub layer is moderately developed and includes regenerating white ash and balsam fir along with beaked hazelnut and fly-honeysuckle. The herb layer has many plants indicative of moist and/or fertile site conditions including interrupted fern, New York fern, sensitive fern, Christmas fern, large-leaved aster and dwarf raspberry. Although the bryophyte layer is poorly developed, shaggy moss and stair-step moss are usually present.

Environmental Setting: IH5 is mainly associated with fresh to moist, nutrient medium to rich soils of variable texture. This VT is found primarily in the Valley/Central and Northumberland Bras d'Or Lowlands ecoregions. It is common in Prince Edward Island and in the warmer ecoregions of New Brunswick.

Successional Dynamics: IH5 is an early to mid-successional VT that follows stand-level disturbances in both softwood and hardwood forests. Typical disturbance agents include fire, windthrow and harvesting. IH5 stands are typically dominated by even-aged, clonalorigin trembling aspen. Depending on the intensity of disturbance, the aspen may perpetuate as an overstory component with little successional advancement of the stand. However, short-lived aspen deteriorate quickly due to natural senescence, insect predation, disease and/or wind damage. Later successional VTs are likely to remain hardwood dominated, although the presence of balsam fir and red spruce may move some stands to a mixedwood forest condition. Possible successional VTs include MW1 (Red spruce – Yellow birch / Evergreen wood fern), MW3 (Hemlock – Yellow birch / Evergreen wood fern), MW4 (Balsam fir – Red maple / Wood sorrel – Gold thread), SH3 (Red spruce - Hemlock / Wild lily-of-the-valley) and TH3 (Sugar maple – White ash / Christmas fern).

Ecological Features

This early successional small patch forest is short lived except for the white ash component that will continue into later successional stages. Trembling aspen is a very shade-intolerant tree and its regeneration is primarily through clonal reproduction from root suckers (which may also support large fungal associates such as shoe-string root rot). Aspen colonizes sites rapidly

after stand-level disturbances. It acts as a "nurse crop" for later successional species that tend to grow up through the aspen, forming two-layered stands before the aspen is overtaken and dies out. Regenerating aspen stands provide cover and forage for many species. Moose and deer feed on its leaves and twigs, ruffed grouse eat its winter buds, snowshoe hare and mice

consume its bark and twigs, and beavers make its bark a dietary staple. Resin from aspen buds is the primary source of bee propolis, an essential hive material. Older aspen trees provide soft snags and cavities for several species of birds. Aspen support many species of insects, most notably the forest tent caterpillar, which is an important food for birds and small mammals.

Plants Freq. (%) Cover (%) Trembling aspen 100 58.8 White ash 89 11.8 Red maple 67 14.7 Yellow birch 56 3.8 Balsam fir 44 25.0 Red spruce 33 9.7 White spruce 22 17.5 Hemlock 22 7.5 Sugar maple 22 7.0 Ironwood 22 2.0 White birch 11 4.0 Black spruce 11 3.0 Tree Layer (Mean % Cover) 91 White ash 89 10.8 Trembling aspen 89 2.1 Balsam fir 78 8.4 Red maple 78 2.0 Service barry 67 0.2
White ash 89 11.8 Red maple 67 14.7 Yellow birch 56 3.8 Balsam fir 44 25.0 Red spruce 33 9.7 White spruce 22 17.5 Hemlock 22 7.5 Sugar maple 22 7.0 Ironwood 22 2.0 White birch 11 4.0 Black spruce 11 3.0 Tree Layer (Mean % Cover) 91 White ash 89 10.8 Trembling aspen 89 2.1 Balsam fir 78 8.4 Red maple 78 2.0
Red maple 67 14.7 Yellow birch 56 3.8 Balsam fir 44 25.0 Red spruce 33 9.7 White spruce 22 17.5 Hemlock 22 7.5 Sugar maple 22 7.0 Ironwood 22 2.0 White birch 11 4.0 Black spruce 11 3.0 Tree Layer (Mean % Cover) 91 White ash 89 10.8 Trembling aspen 89 2.1 Balsam fir 78 8.4 Red maple 78 2.0
Yellow birch 56 3.8 Balsam fir 44 25.0 Red spruce 33 9.7 White spruce 22 17.5 Hemlock 22 7.5 Sugar maple 22 7.0 Ironwood 22 2.0 White birch 11 4.0 Black spruce 11 3.0 Tree Layer (Mean % Cover) 91 White ash 89 10.8 Trembling aspen 89 2.1 Balsam fir 78 8.4 Red maple 78 2.0
Balsam fir 44 25.0 Red spruce 33 9.7 White spruce 22 17.5 Hemlock 22 7.5 Sugar maple 22 7.0 Ironwood 22 2.0 White birch 11 4.0 Black spruce 11 3.0 Tree Layer (Mean % Cover) 91 White ash 89 10.8 Trembling aspen 89 2.1 Balsam fir 78 8.4 Red maple 78 2.0
Red spruce 33 9.7 White spruce 22 17.5 Hemlock 22 7.5 Sugar maple 22 7.0 Ironwood 22 2.0 White birch 11 4.0 Black spruce 11 3.0 Tree Layer (Mean % Cover) 91 White ash 89 10.8 Trembling aspen 89 2.1 Balsam fir 78 8.4 Red maple 78 2.0
White spruce 22 17.5 Hemlock 22 7.5 Sugar maple 22 7.0 Ironwood 22 2.0 White birch 11 4.0 Black spruce 11 3.0 Tree Layer (Mean % Cover) 91 White ash 89 10.8 Trembling aspen 89 2.1 Balsam fir 78 8.4 Red maple 78 2.0
Hemlock 22 7.5 Sugar maple 22 7.0 Ironwood 22 2.0 White birch 11 4.0 Black spruce 11 3.0 Tree Layer (Mean % Cover) 91 White ash 89 10.8 Trembling aspen 89 2.1 Balsam fir 78 8.4 Red maple 78 2.0
Sugar maple 22 7.0 Ironwood 22 2.0 White birch 11 4.0 Black spruce 11 3.0 Tree Layer (Mean % Cover) 91 White ash 89 10.8 Trembling aspen 89 2.1 Balsam fir 78 8.4 Red maple 78 2.0
White birch 11 4.0 Black spruce 11 3.0 Tree Layer (Mean % Cover) 91 White ash 89 10.8 Trembling aspen 89 2.1 Balsam fir 78 8.4 Red maple 78 2.0
Black spruce 11 3.0 Tree Layer (Mean % Cover) 91 White ash 89 10.8 Trembling aspen 89 2.1 Balsam fir 78 8.4 Red maple 78 2.0
Tree Layer (Mean % Cover) 91 White ash 89 10.8 Trembling aspen 89 2.1 Balsam fir 78 8.4 Red maple 78 2.0
White ash 89 10.8 Trembling aspen 89 2.1 Balsam fir 78 8.4 Red maple 78 2.0
Balsam fir 78 8.4 Red maple 78 2.0
Red maple 78 2.0
Serviceberry 67 0.2 Beaked hazelnut 56 5.7
Fly-honeysuckle 56 3.5
Red spruce 44 0.5
White spruce 33 3.7
Striped maple 33 0.7
Bush-honeysuckle 33 0.4
Wild Raisin 33 0.2
Speckled alder 33 0.1 Shrub Layer (Mean % Cover) 34
Starflower 89 0.2
Interrupted fern 78 2.2
New York fern 78 1.3
Wild lily-of-the-valley 78 1.2
Bunchberry 67 4.4
Christmas fern 67 0.6
White panicle aster 67 0.4 Large-leaved aster 56 4.1
Evergreen wood fern 56 0.9
Partridge-berry 56 0.9
Dwarf raspberry 44 3.4
Lady fern 44 1.3
Strawberry 44 0.6
Sarsaparilla 33 8.3 Sensitive fern 33 3.5
Bracken 33 2.7
Goldthread 33 2.0
Oak fern 33 2.0
Wood aster 33 1.8
Twinflower 33 1.7
Cinnamon fern 33 0.7 Woodland horsetail 33 0.3
Woodland horsetail 33 0.3 Herb Layer (Mean % Cover) 34
Shaggy moss 67 4.5
Stair-step moss 56 6.9
Schreber's moss 56 2.3
Broom moss 56 0.7
Hypnum moss 33 3.0
Bazzania 33 0.4 Wavy dicranum 33 0.4
Hair-cap moss 33 0.1
Bryo-Lichen Layer (Mean % Cover) 11

These hardwood forests are dominated by trembling aspen with a component of white ash in the overstory, and with richer soils than IH4.



Bristly club-moss

Site Characteristics

Slope Position: Lower⁵ Middle³ Toe¹ Upper¹

Surface Stoniness: (Non - Slightly)10 Bedrock Outcrop: (Non-rocky)10 Elevation Range: 34 - 80m Slope Gradient: Gentle⁸ nd² North⁴ South⁵ nd¹ Aspect:

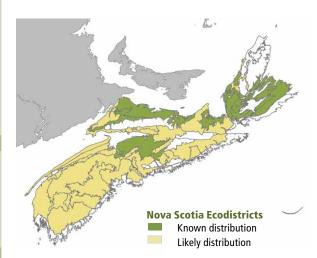
Moderate8 Mod. sheltered1 nd1 Exposure:

Slightly⁷ Moderately³ Microtopography:

Drainage: Imperfect⁷ Moderately well³

Soil Characteristics

Soil Type: ST94 ST62 ST122 ST81 ST161 Parent Material: Glacial till9 Alluvium1 $(<30)^4(30-45)^3(>45)^1 nd^2$ Rooting Depth (cm): Duff Thickness (cm): $(0-5)^{5}(6-10)^{4} nd^{1}$





IH6

White birch – Red maple / Sarsaparilla – Bracken

Betula papyrifera – Acer rubrum / Aralia nudicaulis – Pteridium aquilinum

IH6a **Aspen variant**

Populus grandidentata – Populus tremuloides

n=46

Black Lake, Cumberland County

Concept: This early successional Vegetation Type (VT) has an overstory co-dominated by white birch and red maple, with minor associates. The IH6a variant describes stands where aspen (trembling and/or large-tooth) co-dominates with the birch and maple. Together with its variant, IH6 can grow in a wide range of ecological conditions —from dry to moist and poor to rich sites. White birch - Red maple / Sarsaparilla -Bracken usually follows stand-replacing disturbances events such as fire, windthrow or clearcutting.

Vegetation: White birch and red maple are the dominant overstory trees, while aspen species are co-dominant in variant IH6a. Balsam fir, red spruce, white pine, yellow birch and/or white spruce are common canopy associates. The shrub layer is often well developed and includes several regenerating tree species, wild raisin, lambkill, velvet-leaf blueberry, striped maple and serviceberry. A variety of plants can be found in the herb layer, reflecting the range of site conditions supporting this VT. However, the majority of plants are associated with relatively poor fertility and fresh to dry soils. Common herbaceous species include starflower, bunchberry, sarsaparilla, bracken and ground pine. The bryophyte layer is usually poorly

developed, but often contains patches of Schreber's moss, hypnum moss on decaying wood, and hair-cap moss on recently disturbed soil.

Environmental Setting: IH6 is associated with a range of site conditions ranging from relatively dry, poor, coarse textured soils to relatively moist, rich, fine textured soils (and combinations in between). This VT is common and widespread throughout the province. This is the most common white birch VT in the Acadian Forest, ranging widely across New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island.

Successional Dynamics: IH6 is an early successional VT that follows stand-level disturbances in both softwood and hardwood forests. Typical disturbance agents include fire, windthrow and harvesting. With time, short-lived white birch and aspen will deteriorate due to natural senescence, insects and disease and/or wind damage – leading to a range of possible successional VTs. The presence of other canopy and understory species, particularly residual trees from pre-disturbance conditions, should be used to assess likely successional trends.

Ecological Features

This early successional deciduous forest typically occurs as large patches following stand level disturbances such as fire or tree harvesting. Regeneration is by seed and coppice. White birch is shade-intolerant and is short-lived. The sudden exposure of white birch

stems to increased sunlight and heat, which usually occurs after a partial stand disturbance, usually leads to birch mortality. Red maple has greater longevity and shade tolerance, both of which facilitate its persistence into later successional stages. It also

flowers before most other spring plants, providing one of the most important early and abundant pollen and nectar sources used by a wide range of insects. Both species, but red maple in particular, are favoured as browse for deer and moose.

Characteristic	IH6		IH6a	
Plants	Freq. (%)	Cover (%)	Freq. (%)	Cover (%)
White birch	97	35.1	89	18.6
Red maple	94	29.8	100	36.4
Balsam fir	33	17.3	33	11.7
Red spruce	28	6.0	44	8.8
White pine Yellow birch	28 25	4.8 9.0	11 11	15.0 5.0
Large-tooth aspen	22	8.9	33	20.0
White spruce	14	6.6	22	6.5
Sugar maple	11	10.5	22	9.0
Red oak	11	8.8 5.5	22 67	7.5 27.3
Trembling aspen Tree Layer (Mean % Cover)	11	80	67	94
Balsam fir	78	5.9	67	7.1
Red maple	69	5.9	56	1.1
Wild raisin	67	1.8	56	1.9
Lambkill	61	16.5	56	2.3
Velvet-leaf blueberry	58	12.9	56	5.7
Striped maple White pine	53 50	2.4 1.8	44 44	2.9
Black spruce	50 44	3.5	44 56	0.3 1.0
Serviceberry	44	0.6	89	0.3
Lowbush blueberry	42	4.8	44	2.3
Red spruce	42	2.7	44	1.6
False holly	36	0.9	11	0.1
Red oak Witch-hazel	33 28	1.3 3.3	67 44	0.2 0.1
Beaked hazelnut	28	3.3 0.5	56	9.4
Shrub Layer (Mean % Cover)	43		22
Wild lily-of-the-valley	89	1.7	100	2.0
Starflower	89	0.9	100	0.7
Bunchberry	81 78	7.2 3.0	78 89	3.5 5.4
Sarsaparilla Bracken	78 72	3.0 12.1	89 89	12.6
Ground pine	61	0.7	67	0.1
Goldthread	50	2.9	78	8.0
Partridge-berry	50	0.5	89	3.0
Teaberry	44	17.8	56	6.6
Evergreen wood fern Wood aster	39 39	2.2 0.7	22 33	1.5 0.5
Painted trillium	39	0.7	33	0.5
Twinflower	36	2.0	11	0.5
Mayflower	36	1.0	33	0.2
Indian cucumber root	36	0.3	56	0.1
Bluebead lily Hay-scented fern	33 31	2.0 7.4	44	0.2
Violets	11	6.3	44	1.3
Large-leaved aster	11	0.7	33	0.4
Short husk	11	0.1	56	0.1
Interrupted fern	8	0.7	44	8.3
New York fern	3	35.0	33	20.7
Herb Layer (Mean % Cover)	0.0	38	00	42
Schreber's moss	86 75	3.1 1.7	89 44	1.2 1.1
Hypnum moss Broom moss	73 72	0.7	78	1.0
Hair-cap moss	64	0.8	100	1.7
Stair-step moss	39	1.8	44	0.4
Shaggy moss	C	-	33	0.5
Bryo-Lichen Layer (Mean %	Cover)	7		6

The canopy of this hardwood forest is dominated by early successional species (red maple, white

birch, trembling and large-tooth aspen). Wild raisin, blueberry, lambkill, bracken and sarsaparilla are usually present. Aspen is diagnostic for the variant IH6a.



Sarsaparilla

Site Characteristics

Slope Position: Upper⁵ Middle³ Level¹ Lower¹ Surface Stoniness: (Non - Slightly)⁶ (Moderately)³

(Very - Excessively)1

Bedrock Outcrop: (Non-rocky)9

(Slightly - Moderately)1

8 - 229m **Elevation Range:**

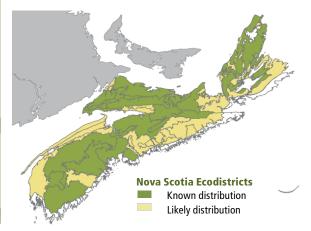
Slope Gradient: Gentle⁷ Moderate¹ Level¹ nd¹ Aspect: North³ East¹ South² West³ None¹ Exposure: Moderate⁸ Mod. exposed²

Microtopography: Moderately⁶ Slightly³ Strongly¹ Drainage: Well⁶ Moderately well²

Imperfect²

Soil Characteristics

Soil Type: ST2⁴ ST2-L² ST6¹ ST15¹ Other² Parent Material: Glacial till9 Till/Bedrock1 Rooting Depth (cm): $(<30)^1(30-45)^3(>45)^4$ nd² Duff Thickness (cm): $(0-5)^3 (6-10)^4 (11-20)^1 nd^2$







Red maple / Hay-scented fern Wood sorrel

Acer rubrum / Dennstaedtia punctilobula - Oxalis acetosella

n=18

Tyndal Road, Cumberland County

Concept: This early to mid-successional Vegetation Type (VT) has an overstory dominated by red maple and lesser amounts of several shade-tolerant associates, possibly including sugar maple, yellow birch and/or red spruce. IH7 is also distinguished by its diverse herb layer, which is indicative of mesic Nova Scotia hardwood forests. Red maple / Hay-scented fern – Wood sorrel usually follows stand-replacing disturbances events such as fire, windthrow or clearcutting, but it can also result from partial harvesting within hardwood forests.

Vegetation: Red maple is the dominant overstory tree, accompanied by a lesser amount of sugar maple, yellow birch, red spruce and/or beech. The shrub layer is moderately developed and includes regenerating trees (including balsam fir), fly-honeysuckle and striped maple. The herb layer is dominated by several species of ferns, most notably hayscented fern which can be an aggressive competitor in open, disturbed sites. Other common species include New York fern, evergreen wood fern, rose twisted stalk, Indian cucumber root, wood aster, wood sorrel, bristly and shining club-moss, and various violet species. The bryophyte layer is poorly developed.

Environmental Setting: IH7 is associated with fresh to moist, nutrient medium to rich soils of variable texture. This VT is found scattered throughout Nova Scotia, but is particularly common on upper slope positions within the Nova Scotia Uplands ecoregion. This VT is common in New Brunswick and on Prince Edward Island. It is the most widespread red maple forest in the Maritimes.

Successional Dynamics: IH7 is an early to midsuccessional VT that usually follows stand-level disturbance events in hardwood forests. The main disturbance agents are typically windthrow and harvesting, including aggressive partial harvesting, which can promote coppice red maple regeneration. The smothering and competitive nature of hay-scented fern can also restrict and/or delay establishment of other hardwood species. With sufficient time between disturbance events, IH7 can succeed to TH1 (Sugar maple / Hay-scented fern), TH2 (Sugar maple / New York fern – Northern beech fern), TH6 (Red oak – Yellow birch / Striped maple) or MW1 (Red spruce – Yellow birch / Evergreen wood fern).

Ecological Features

This early successional closed canopy hardwood forest typically develops following stand-level disturbance. Regeneration is by seed or coppice. The longevity and relatively high shade tolerance of red maple facilitate its

persistence into later successional stages. Red maple regenerates quickly as coppice and is a favoured browse by both deer and moose. It flowers before most other spring plants, providing one of the most important early and abundant

pollen and nectar sources used by a wide range of insects. With increased light availability caused by canopy disturbances, hay-scented fern can be very invasive and spread aggressively, which restricts tree regeneration.

Characteristic	IH7		
Plants	Freq.	Cover (%)	
Red maple	100	66.4	
Sugar maple	56	17.8	
Yellow birch Red spruce	56 33	7.3 3.8	
Beech	33	3.0 3.2	
White spruce	11	2.0	
White ash	11	1.5	
Tree Layer (Mean % Cover) Balsam fir	89	84 4.0	
Yellow birch	78	2.4	
Red maple	78	1.2	
Sugar maple	67	5.4	
Fly-honeysuckle Red spruce	56 44	1.1 1.2	
Striped maple	39	2.2	
Beech	39	0.7	
White spruce	33	3.4	
Wild raisin White pine	22 22	0.8 0.3	
Beaked hazelnut	22	0.5	
Shrub Layer (Mean % Cover)		15	
Hay-scented fern	94	48.2	
Evergreen wood fern	89	6.3	
Violets Wild lily-of-the-valley	89 72	1.2 1.3	
Goldthread	67	1.7	
Wood-sorrel	67	1.6	
Starflower	67	0.7	
Sarsaparilla Wood aster	56 56	1.1 0.6	
Rose twisted stalk	56	0.5	
Indian cucumber root	50	0.3	
Bristly club-moss	44	4.4	
Ground pine Partridge-berry	44 44	0.7 0.7	
Drooping wood sedge	44	0.7	
Painted trillium	44	0.1	
New York fern	39	9.0	
Bluebead lily Short husk	39 39	0.1 0.1	
Christmas fern	33	2.4	
Northern beech fern	33	0.9	
Bunchberry	28	0.4	
Shining club-moss Dwarf raspberry	28 28	0.4 0.2	
Three seeded sedge	28	0.2	
Bracken	22	2.5	
Cinnamon fern	22	1.0	
Blue joint	22	0.1	
White lettuce Wood reed	22 22	0.1 0.1	
Herb Layer (Mean % Cover)		66	
Hypnum moss	67	1.8	
Hair-cap moss	67	0.2	
Broom moss	39 39	1.8 1.1	
Stair-step moss Fern moss	39	0.7	
Bazzania	33	0.3	
Bryo-Lichen Layer (Mean % Cov	ver)	3	

This hardwood forest on well drained soils is dominated by red maple. On better sites sugar maple, yellow birch and beech are present. Extensive hay-scented fern cover is diagnostic for this unit. New York fern and evergreen wood fern are also common.



Hay-scented fern

Site Characteristics

Slope Position: Middle⁴ Upper³ Crest² Level¹ Surface Stoniness: (Non - Slightly)7 (Moderately)1

(Very - Excessively)1 nd1

(Non-rocky)9 (Slightly - Moderately)1 Bedrock Outcrop:

28 - 261m Elevation Range:

Slope Gradient: Gentle⁴ Moderate³ Level² Steep¹ Aspect: North⁴ East² South¹ West¹ None¹ nd¹ Exposure: Moderate⁵ Mod. exposed⁴

Mod. sheltered1

Moderately⁴ Strongly⁴ Other² Microtopography: Drainage: Moderately well⁵ Well⁵

Soil Characteristics

ST2-L4ST52ST21ST81Other2 Soil Type:

Parent Material: Glacial till¹⁰ Rooting Depth (cm): $(30-45)^4(>45)^6$

Duff Thickness (cm): $(0-5)^2 (6-10)^5 (11-20)^1 (>40)^1 nd^1$

