

Working with a forest professional can improve your chances of successful selection harvesting. Trees to be removed can be marked and extraction trails can be located to increase harvesting effectiveness and keep costs to a minimum.



*For detailed information, please visit the following resources:*

**NS Department of Natural Resources**  
[www.gov.ns.ca/natr/woodlot](http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/woodlot)  
1-866-226-7577 [woodlot@gov.ns.ca](mailto:woodlot@gov.ns.ca)

#### **Forest Professionals**

- Registered Professional Foresters Association of Nova Scotia [www.rpfans.ca](http://www.rpfans.ca)
- Nova Scotia Forest Technicians Association [www.nsfia.ca](http://www.nsfia.ca)
- Canadian Institute of Forestry [www.cif-ifc.org](http://www.cif-ifc.org)

#### **Woodlot Owner Organizations**

- Federation of Nova Scotia Woodland Owners [www.fnswo.ca](http://www.fnswo.ca)
- Nova Scotia Landowners and Forest Fibre Producers Association [www.nslffpa.org](http://www.nslffpa.org)
- Nova Scotia Woodlot Owners and Operators Association [www.nswooa.ca](http://www.nswooa.ca)

#### **Harvesting and Silviculture Contractors**

- Nova Forest Alliance [www.novaforestalliance.com](http://www.novaforestalliance.com)
- Atlantic Master Loggers [www.cwfcof.org](http://www.cwfcof.org)

#### **Silviculture Assistance**

- Association for Sustainable Forestry [www.asforestry.com](http://www.asforestry.com)

#### **Woodlot Road Assistance**

- Forest Products Association of Nova Scotia [www.fpana.ca](http://www.fpana.ca)



*A Quick Guide to*

# SELECTION MANAGEMENT



FAMILY WOODLOT GUIDE

Selection management is a method of harvesting a stand of trees at regular intervals so that its uneven-aged structure is maintained. Trees can be removed individually or in small groups. This will increase the yield, establish new age classes and improve the overall quality of the stand.

An uneven-aged stand has at least three age classes. Selection management involves harvesting some trees from each age class in the stand. Usually the poorest quality trees are removed first, so that over time the stand quality improves. This method of management is particularly well suited to tree species that are shade-tolerant and long-lived.

**Species suited to selection management include:**

**Softwoods**

- Red Spruce
- Hemlock
- White Pine

**Hardwoods**

- Sugar Maple
- Yellow Birch
- White Ash
- Red Oak

It is important to avoid removing too many trees during each harvest. Typically, less than one-third of the stand volume should be removed every 20 to 30 years.



Selection management gradually removes the crooked, suppressed and low-quality trees in the stand. It is important to keep a few standing dead snags and cavity trees for wildlife habitat.



The uneven-aged structure of an entire woodlot can be maintained with a series of small patch-cuts, which should regenerate within a few years of harvest. By harvesting different patches every few years, the woodlot will maintain an uneven-aged structure.

Patch-cutting is often easier to accomplish than harvesting trees uniformly throughout a stand or woodlot. The work is concentrated in one location and harvested wood can be extracted more easily.