

# Nova Scotia's Forest Inventory Plot Program

The Forest Inventory Plot (FIP) program began in 1965-70 with 1765 randomly selected plots established across Nova Scotia. The purpose of these plots is to collect forest growth and mortality information. Over time, additional measurements and collection specifications have been added to the program to enable a more comprehensive forest inventory.

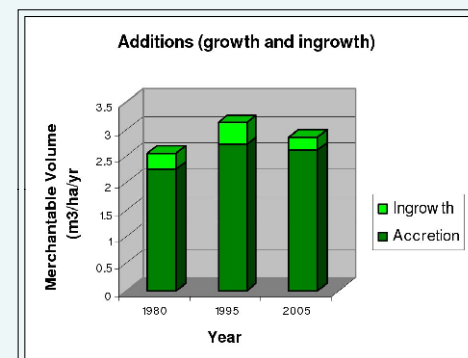
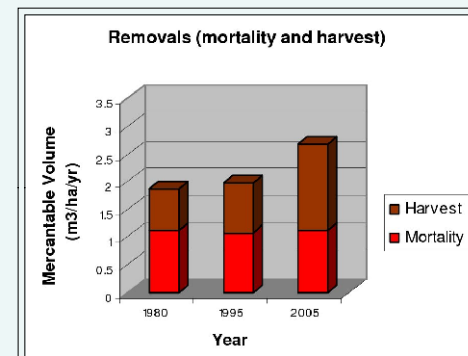
Each forest inventory plot is a circular area 1/10 of an acre in size. Within the plot, living and dead trees greater than 9.1 cm in diameter at 1.3 metres above the ground are numbered and measured for total height and diameter. All live trees within the plot that are between 3.1cm and 9.0cm are recorded by species.

Between 1998 and 2002, new Forest Inventory Plots were established in Nova Scotia. Today there are 3250 plots.



Measuring Soil Substrate Depth

Landowners whose property includes a Forest Inventory Plot are asked to include that area in any silvicultural treatments they might carry out on their property. This ensures that the plot is an accurate reflection of the surrounding stand, and therefore an accurate representation of what is happening in Nova Scotia's Forests.



The tables above represent the type of reports compiled using data collected from Permanent Sample Plots.



Data Collection Tablet

Each symbol on this map( • ) represents the location of a Forest Inventory Plot in Nova Scotia. Field crews will visit each plot once in a five year cycle.

Information collected through the Forest Inventory Plot Program is used to inform decisions in areas such as ecosystem management, forest protection, bio-diversity maintenance, and habitat preservation.

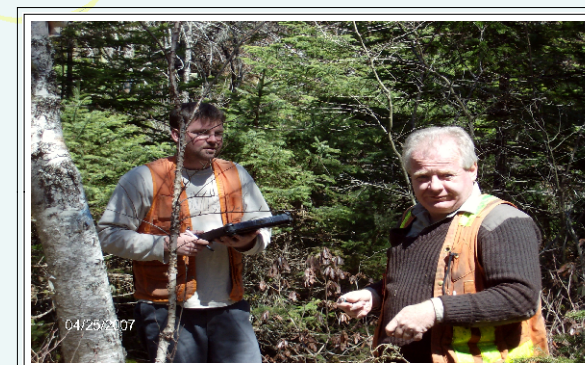
Within the plot, information is gathered on a sub-plot level and this includes an indexing of woody debris, shrubs, regeneration and fire hazard, as well as some wildlife data.



Diameter Measurement



Trees to be Measured on a Forest Inventory Plot



Forest Technicians collecting data on a plot