

Crop trees should be at least 8 m (25 ft) in height and 15 cm (6 in) in diameter.

The objective of Crop Tree Release is to free a tree's crown on at least three sides so that the crown has room to grow. As the crown expands, the diameter growth of the tree will also increase. Tree diameter is an important factor in the value of forest products.

Once crop trees are released, their lower stems can be pruned. Pruning will add further value to the best trees on your woodlot.

For detailed information, please visit the following resources:

NS Department of Natural Resources
www.gov.ns.ca/natr/woodlot
1-866-226-7577 woodlot@gov.ns.ca

Forest Professionals

- Registered Professional Foresters Association of Nova Scotia www.rpfans.ca
- Nova Scotia Forest Technicians Association www.nsfia.ca
- Canadian Institute of Forestry www.cif-ifc.org

Woodlot Owner Organizations

- Federation of Nova Scotia Woodland Owners www.fnswo.ca
- Nova Scotia Landowners and Forest Fibre Producers Association www.nslffpa.org
- Nova Scotia Woodlot Owners and Operators Association www.nswooa.ca

Harvesting and Silviculture Contractors

- Nova Forest Alliance www.novaforestalliance.com
- Atlantic Master Loggers www.cwfcof.org

Silviculture Assistance

- Association for Sustainable Forestry www.asforestry.com

Woodlot Road Assistance

- Forest Products Association of Nova Scotia www.fpans.ca

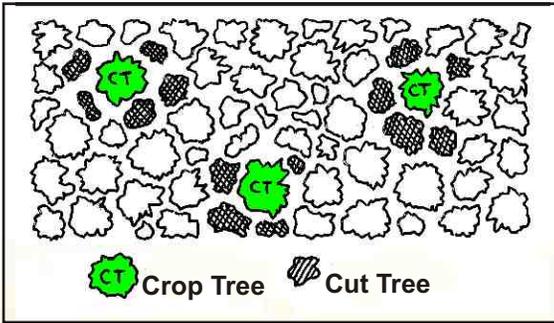


A Quick Guide to **CROP TREE RELEASE**



Crop tree release is a treatment used to favor individual trees throughout a stand or woodlot. This is done by removing less desirable competing trees from the vicinity of a crop tree, which will allow the crop tree to:

- expand its crown
- increase nutrient uptake
- strengthen its root system
- grow to its full potential



Individual trees are identified and marked as potential crop trees. A crop tree should be vigorous, straight, have good form and with at least one-third of its stem supporting a healthy crown. On hardwood crop trees the bark should be tight and free from scars.

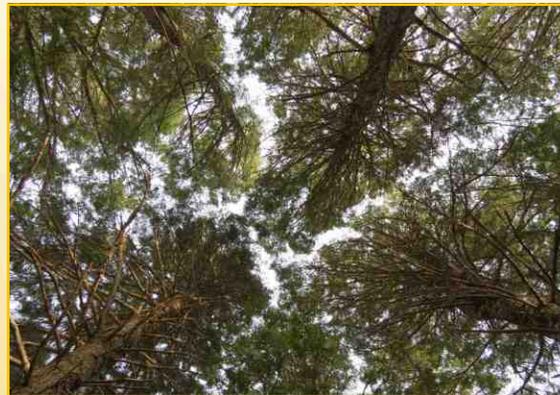
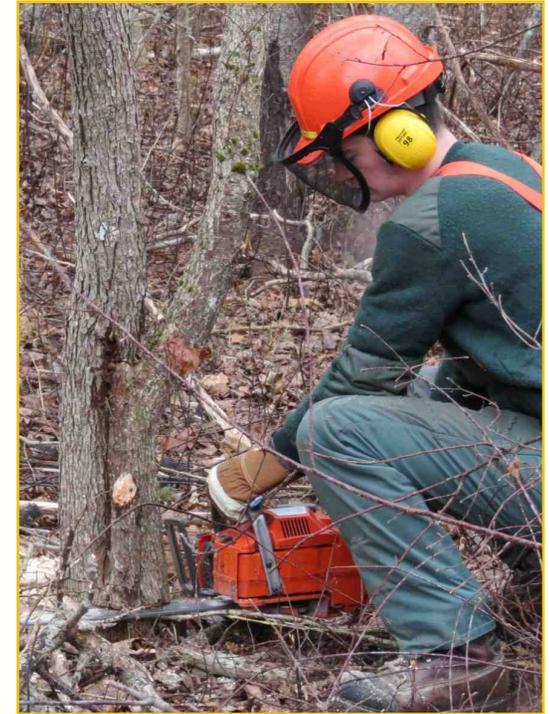
Species that are suited for Crop Tree Release include:

Hardwoods:

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

Softwoods:

- Red Spruce
- Red Pine
- Hemlock



Before crop tree release



After crop tree release