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A Guide to Identifying and Managing Nova Scotia Hardwoods (2004)		\$10

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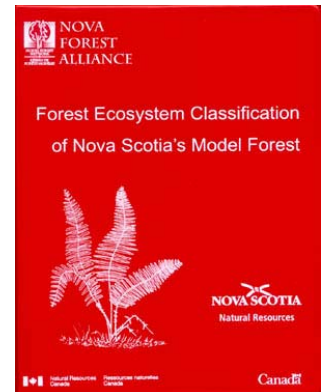
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## Forest Ecosystem Classification of Nova Scotia's Model Forest

Forest ecosystems are complex. Management tools are required that can reduce this complexity, while still being biologically meaningful. Such a tool has just been developed for the approximately 458,000 ha area contained within Nova Scotia's model forest. A comprehensive forest ecosystem classification (FEC) guide has been produced which contains identification keys, descriptive information, photographs, and management interpretations for 10 ecotypes, 28 vegetation types, and 16 soil types found within the Nova Forest Alliance area.

Classifying forest ecosystems based on vegetation, soil, and site attributes allows woodlot owners and forestry professionals to recognize similar ecosystem units on the ground and to have a common understanding of these units. From this classification, management guidelines can be developed which address opportunities and limitations associated with different ecosystems.

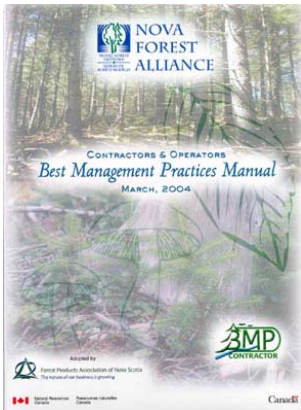
The four year project was a cooperative effort between the NFA and the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources' Ecosystem Management Group.



## Best Management Practices Manual

This manual was developed by forest contractors and operators in order to address the NFA goal to improve forest practices within the NFA area. While laws and regulations either exist or are in the planning stages for some activities, we know that government regulations can never cover all aspects of forestry operations. This is particularly difficult when new research into the impacts of forest practices requires us to continually adapt and change our operations to ensure we are doing what is right for the forest and the environment. With the majority of the land-base being the responsibility of small private woodland owners who may have varied knowledge of forest practices, the responsibility will often rest on the contractor to provide the best advice and implement the most appropriate practice on the ground.

BMP's are proposed for the most important forest operations including developing an effective relationship with the landowner, harvesting, forest/wildlife management and road construction. The BMP's provide the broad guidelines for delivering the practice in a professional manner, respecting all forest values. Finally, there are BMP's proposed for ensuring a safe operation and for self monitoring.



## A Guide to Identifying and Managing Nova Scotia Hardwoods

As one of Nova Scotia's most visible natural resources, hardwood trees are admired by forest managers and non-forest managers alike for their contribution to the biodiversity of the province's woodlands. They provide valuable habitat for wildlife, protection for watercourses, opportunities for recreation and a source of wood products.

There are more species of hardwoods than softwoods in Nova Scotia. This creates a number of diverse management regimes that can provide a woodland owner with many options.

If properly managed, hardwoods can be a valuable commodity in a market saturated by low quality forest products. While hardwood management is not difficult, some basic knowledge is required to make the best decisions. Central to this is a reasonable ability to identify the main species.

In this booklet, Gary Saunders provides a simple, illustrated guide to just our local species, and describes concisely how to manage them for greater value.

