

Non-native Invasive Species Control:

A non-native invasive species is any plant, animal, or organism outside their native range that causes significant negative impact to native species or natural ecosystems. Non-native invasive species control involves positively identifying the invasive species followed by eradication of that species. This is normally carried out through the use of chemical or mechanical controls. Non-native invasive plants have a tendency to occupy or suffocate space that would otherwise be occupied by native species.



Responsible Forest Management and You

All these management techniques are used every day by professional foresters in the field to manage Illinois forests. However, since the majority of forestland in Illinois is privately owned by individual land owners, Illinois forests need your help. Private landowners who wish to conserve and expand healthy Illinois forests should consult with their district forester and/or a professional consulting forester. In both cases, their job is to help you manage your forest in a way that fully meets your personal stewardship goals. This can be accomplished by enlisting your land in an FDA Forest Management Plan. The Illinois Forestry Development Act provides technical assistance, financial incentives via cost-share, free seedlings, and guaranteed tax assessments to eligible timber growers to encourage the tending, planting, and protection of Illinois forest resources.

Forestry Resources

Illinois Department of Natural Resources

USDA Forest Service

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services

Illinois Forestry Association

Illinois Tree Farm

Illinois Walnut Council

Illinois Arborist Association

Illinois Society of American Foresters

Society of American Foresters - Illinois Chapter

University of Illinois Department of Environmental Sciences

Southern Illinois University Carbondale Department of Forestry

To learn more about responsible management of your forest and programs available to landowners go to:

<https://www.ilforestry.org/>

or

<http://ifdc.nres.illinois.edu/>

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Saving and Expanding Well Managed Oak-Hickory Forests in Illinois

Help Illinois manage our oak-hickory forests by practicing responsible forest management



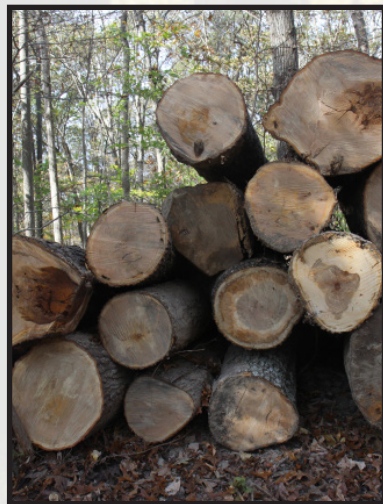
Oak-Hickory Forests of Illinois

Oak-hickory forests are the predominant forest type in the state of Illinois. Many of the ecosystem processes in Illinois forests rely on an abundance of oaks and hickories.



Oak-hickory forests provide exceptional habitat for wildlife, as well as provide mast (nuts from trees) which is critical for many wildlife species in Illinois.

Oaks in particular are also very important to forest industry, providing valuable timber for many different markets.



The Threat to Illinois Oak-Hickory Forest

Today, the oak-hickory dominant species composition of our forests is facing new threats due to lack of responsible forest management. In a forest, all tree species are competing for light and space to grow into the canopy. Oaks specifically need significant amounts of sunlight reaching the forest floor to establish the next generation understory.

When a forest canopy is heavily stocked and mature, this gives an advantage to shade-tolerant species such as sugar maple and beech, to outcompete, occupy, and dominate the forests that were previously oak-hickory dominant.



Oak Response to Disturbance

Historically, oak and hickory have responded to natural disturbances (fire, heavy winds, ice, tornadoes) better than their competitors. Many management techniques used today by foresters mimic those natural disturbances. Applying these management practices on your land can help ensure you are maintaining healthy oak-hickory forest.

Responsible Forest Management Techniques Crucial to Your Forest

Forest Stand Improvement (FSI):

This management technique involves thinning the amount of trees in a forested area. Less desirable species such as maples, beech, and elm are strategically removed to open space in the canopy and increase sunlight exposure through the canopy.



Prescribed Burns:

Introducing fire to a forest reduces midstory and forest floor vegetation, which helps reduce shading and competition. Fire also reduces soil surface moisture which can discourage the establishment of oak competitors such as sugar maple and beech. Prescribed burns should always be conducted with the planning and oversight of a professional forester.