

Changes to ASF Silviculture Criteria

From time to time, the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources may implement changes to the ASF Silviculture Criteria. There are changes for the Category 7 Quality Improvement Silviculture Funding Program for 2009-10 (running April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2010). The following changes are to accompany the ASF Procedures Manual when conducting pre- and post-assessments on Category 7 treatments. Please note: the Procedures Manual is not updated each time the Silviculture Criteria change (the manual follows the technical standards of the Forest Sustainability Regulations). The user of the manual is responsible to incorporate the changes when conducting pre- and post-assessments.

Crop Tree Release

The basal area requirements have changed. The requirement was $> 15 \text{ m}^2/\text{ha}$ for all stands, post-treatment. The requirement now is in areas where basal area is $> 75\%$ tolerant hardwood species (WAS, YB, SM, RO, BE) the post-treatment basal area must be $> 14 \text{ m}^2/\text{ha}$ (in all other areas $> 15 \text{ m}^2/\text{ha}$).

Crop tree Pruning

- The quality retention standards are to be followed as found in the ASF Crop tree Pruning Educational Brochure and the ASF Quality Standards (which can be found in the ASF Procedures Manual).
- There is a new requirement on the diameter of trees pruned. Crop trees eligible to be pruned must have a DBH (diameter at breast height) of less than 20 cm.
- Red spruce and eastern hemlock are now eligible to be pruned.

Selection Management

- The basal area requirements have changed. It was $16 \text{ ó } 30 \text{ m}^2/\text{ha}$ for all stands, post-treatment, and is now $12 \text{ ó } 30 \text{ m}^2/\text{ha}$ in areas where the basal area is $> 75\%$ tolerant hardwood species (WAS, YB, SM, RO, BE). The requirement remains $16 - 30 \text{ m}^2/\text{ha}$ in all other areas.
- Understory thinning must be completed according to the technical standards found in the Forest Sustainability Regulations (SW: 3-7 m and HW 6-9 m must be spaced to 1.5 m or 4500/ha) except in areas where there is not an acceptable crop tree species or the potential crop tree is identified as diseased or suppressed.