

Coast forest region. This region is part of the Pacific Coast forest of North America. Essentially coniferous, it consists principally of western red cedar and western hemlock, with Sitka spruce abundant in the north and Douglas fir in the south. Amabilis fir and yellow cypress are represented throughout the region and, with mountain hemlock and alpine fir, are common at the higher altitudes. Western white pine is found in southern parts, while western yew is in widely scattered groups. Deciduous trees, such as black cottonwood, red alder and bigleaf maple, have a limited distribution. Arbutus, a broad-leaved evergreen, and Garry oak grow only on the southeast coast of Vancouver Island, the adjacent islands and mainland. Both species are predominantly southward in the United States.

Acadian forest region. This forest covers the greater part of the Maritime provinces and is closely related to the Great Lakes–St. Lawrence forest and, to a lesser extent, the boreal forest. Red spruce is a characteristic though not exclusive species, and associated with it are balsam fir, yellow birch and sugar maple, with some red pine, eastern white pine, jack pine and eastern hemlock. Beech was formerly more important than at present, but beech bark disease has drastically reduced its numbers in Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and southern New Brunswick. Other abundant species are white spruce, black spruce, red oak, white elm, black ash, red maple, white birch, grey birch and poplars. Eastern white cedar, although present in New Brunswick, is extremely rare elsewhere.

Columbia forest region. A large part of the Kootenay Valley, the upper valleys of the Thompson and Fraser rivers and the Quesnel Lake area of British Columbia contain a coniferous forest, called the Columbia forest region, which closely resembles the coast forest region. Western red cedar and western hemlock are the characteristic species in this interior wet belt. Associated trees are the interior Douglas fir which has general distribution and, in southern parts, western white pine, western larch, grand fir and western yew. Engelmann spruce from the subalpine forest region is important in the upper Fraser Valley and is found to some extent at the upper levels of the forest in the rest of the region. At lower elevations in the west and in parts of the Kootenay Valley, the forest merges with the montane forest region and in a few places borders directly on grassland.

Deciduous forest region. A small portion of the deciduous forest, widespread in the United States, extends into southwestern Ontario between lakes Huron, Erie and Ontario. Here, with the deciduous trees common to the Great Lakes–St. Lawrence forest region, such as sugar maple, beech, white elm, basswood, red ash, white oak and butternut, are scattered a number of other deciduous species which have their northern limits in this locality. Among these are the tulip tree, cucumber tree, pawpaw, red mulberry, Kentucky coffee tree, redbud, black gum, blue ash, sassafras, mockernut hickory, pignut hickory, black oak and pin oak. In addition, black walnut, sycamore and swamp white oak are confined largely to this region. Conifers are few but there is scattered distribution of eastern white pine, tamarack, eastern red cedar and eastern hemlock.

Grasslands. Although not a forest region, the prairies of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta support several species of trees in great numbers. Trembling aspen forms groves around wet depressions and continuous dense stands along the northern boundary. Several other species of poplar are usually found along rivers and in moist locations, along with willows and some white spruce. There are sporadic stands of white birch, Manitoba maple, bur oak and ash. In British Columbia, where grasslands are confined to deep valleys and low areas of the interior, there are scattered numbers of ponderosa pine, birch, poplar, spruce and mountain alder.

Forest land

10.1.1.2

Inventories of Canadian forest resources are made periodically by provincial forest authorities and, with their co-operation, the Canadian Forestry Service of the fisheries and the environment department compiles national statistics.