

## XII. Conclusion

These are times of change and challenge. The majority of this Country's forests are in private, non-industrial ownership. This means that the future forest resource needs of our nation must largely be met by the people you advise.

As the demand for forest benefits grows and their availability from public lands is constrained, supply will depend more and more on private, non-industrial forests. Management of private ownerships must appeal to today's landowners by offering options that can produce a wide range of benefits.

Crop Tree Management is a system that can effectively fulfill multiple landowner goals. It is easy to explain and understand. Perhaps the greatest advantage of this system, however, is the opportunity it gives landowners to actually participate in managing their own crop trees.

Remember — communication is the key. Helping private, non-industrial landowners reach a forest stewardship goal by providing sound management advice can be a real challenge. However, if we are going to be effective at managing crop trees both now and in the future, we must meet that challenge by learning how to communicate well with our clients.



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**Management of private ownerships must appeal to today's landowners by offering options that can produce a wide range of benefits.**

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*Managing private, non-industrial forests today presents new challenges and great opportunities. How well this vital segment of the forest resource produces benefits for society depends on our ability to meet those challenges.*

## *I Can Wait*

*"I can wait," said the farmer,  
When all the seeds were in the soil.  
"I can wait until the harvest  
To prosper from my toil."*

*He paused a bit to wipe his brow,  
How fast had gone the morn.  
"I'll work this plot all summer,  
Then reap my crop of corn."*

*And so the farmer tends the field,  
And as he works he knows,  
He will see the harvest  
From all the seeds he sows.*

*"I can wait," said the steward,  
When the treatment was all through.  
"I can wait to see the new stand,  
It was time here to renew."*

*He thought about the work it took  
To regenerate the stand.  
He thought about the way it looked;  
Some might not understand.*

*"It looks a little naked now,  
But that won't last for long.  
New growth will quickly fill the site,  
With young trees growing strong."*

*Unlike the farmer with his crop,  
The steward cannot say,  
"I can wait to reap the harvest  
From what I've done today."*

*The steward starts the trees to grow,  
Tending season after season,  
While others question why he does,  
What could be his reason?*

*Not for himself he does it,  
No reward he'll likely see,  
But for those who follow after,  
He will leave his legacy.*

*Brenda L. Wilkins*

**Original  
Stand  
(55 Years Old)**

**Immediately  
After  
Cutting**

**4 Years After  
Cutting**

**20 Crop Trees  
Released  
per Acre**

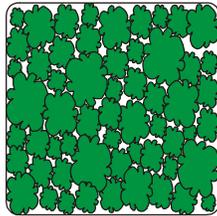


**32 Crop Trees  
Released  
per Acre**

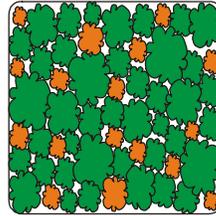


Area-Wide Thinning

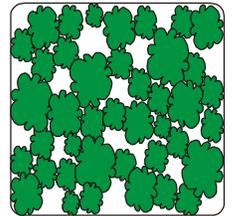
Crop Trees Selected



Cut Trees Marked

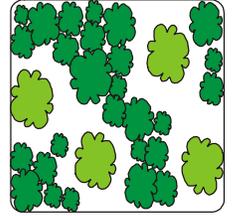
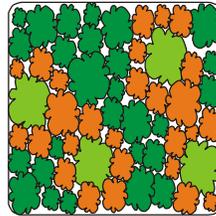
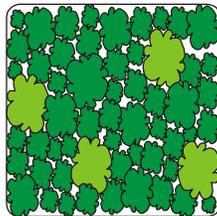


Cut Trees Removed

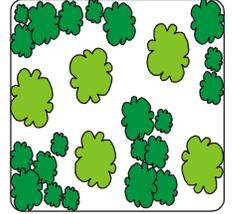
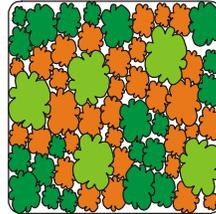
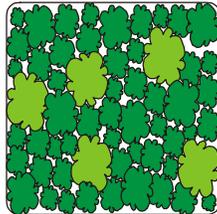


Crop Tree Management

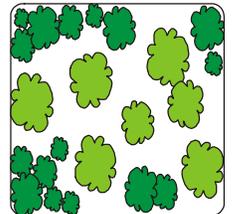
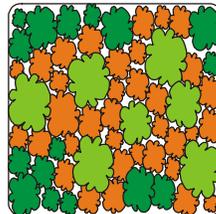
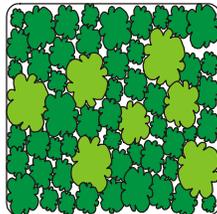
Minimum Number of Crop Trees Released



Moderate Number of Crop Trees Released



Maximum Number of Crop Trees Released



### **XIII. Appendices**

The following appendices contain additional information regarding Crop Tree Management in Eastern Hardwoods. The data sheets included in the back pocket of the publication may be reproduced. Please feel free to use this publication and its contents to help your clients understand how the Crop Tree Management System works.



*Crop Tree Management is easy to understand and easy to explain, which facilitates communication of the concept to others.*

- **Timber Production**
- **Fish & Wildlife Habitat Improvement**
- **Aesthetic Enhancement**
- **Water-Quality Maintenance**

