

Newport Forest

September 14 2000

1:00 - 3:30 pm

**Weather:** rainy and cool, but irrelevant

**Purpose:** to learn about reforestation and tree-farming

**Participants:** Kee, Hugh Geurts

We met not at Newport Forest, but at the KCCA headquarters, adjourning to a local restaurant to discuss the basics of reforestation and tree-farming as these subjects might apply to Newport Forest. The information included below summarizes the points of the discussion reorganized under appropriate headings.

## REFORESTATION

1. In the spring, as soon as the ground is soft enough, scour the proposed plot with a one-furrow plow, leaving as much grass as possible. Scouring may follow a random, winding track.

2. Stage I (Tolerant Species) Plant any or all of the following species as densely as you want but with an average interstem distance of no more than 6-8':

Silver Maple

*Populus* spp. (Trembling Aspen, Large-tooth Aspen, Cottonwood

Black Walnut

White Ash (not grass-tolerant, but will survive better with watering)

American Elm

Basswood (along edges)

*Carya* spp. (among Basswoods)

Eastern Red Cedar

Box Elder

Notes: Avoid Black Locust and Honey Locust. Also, Avoid Eastern Cottonwood (*P. deltoides*) unless you have a guaranteed pure strain and not the one introduced by MNR (now running rampant), which is a blend of Eastern Cottonwood and Carolina Cottonwood.

3. Stage II (Mid-tolerant Species) About 15 years into the growth cycle or when the initially planted trees reach about 8'-12' in height, the underlying grasses, Goldenrods and other herbaceous meadow plants will begin to "fade." You can (plant or) spread seed for

*Quercus* spp.

Black Cherry  
 Kentucky Coffee Tree (can also be planted after a few years into Stage I)  
 Sugar Maple and Black Maple (under N side of “canopy” trees)  
 American Beech (under N side of “canopy” trees) and try  
 Blue Ash (under Elms or Box Elders)

NOTES: Understorey trees, such as Bluebeech, Ironwood, etc, will “seed themselves in” naturally. However, these too may be planted to speed the process up.

### TREE FARM

Every year, plant a row of as many trees as you like 6’ apart. As they grow, and as successive rows are planted every year, no pruning will be necessary except, possibly, on the open side of the first row. The following species are presently of commercial value and take about 35 years to mature:

Species	sawlog price*	veneer price*
Red Oak	\$700-900	\$1200-1700
White Oak	350-500	1200-2400
White Ash	200-300	1000-2000
Black Cherry	600-1100	1100-1500
Sugar Maple	600-950	1500-3000
Black Walnut	500-600	1000-2000
Basswood	150-300	n/a

The following species are somewhat less valuable, but may still be worth growing, as they take only about 20+ years to mature: White Pine; Cottonwood (for pallets); Tamarack.

\* per 1000 board feet (1 bf = 1”x12”x12”). A tree that is 30” at the stump and 20” at a height of 40’ will make a log containing approximately 260 bf. Thus, a White Oak of these dimensions will be worth about \$640 as a veneer log (no knots) at to-day’s prices (top dollar).

The prices above were taken from the Elgin Co. Woodlot Owners Association Newsletter, Autumn 2000. (See Resources, next page)

### Resources:

1. The Forest Shop

RR#1, Perth, Ontario K7H 3C3

(613) 233-4283

<[www.forestshop.com](http://www.forestshop.com)>

This store has a complete line of books on trees, forests, tree-farming, reforestation, etc.

2. Forest Gene Conservation Association  
“The Ontario Seed Bank”  
contact: Barb Boysen (705) 750-1300  
A good source for pure seed. This organization also works to ensure that seed from one “genetic zone” is not used in another.
3. Angus Campbell, Iona Station, Ontario. 762-5180 (ref. Sue McConnell)  
A member of the Elgin Co. Hall of Fame, famous for his pioneering methods in beef production, an avid conservationist, and very knowledgeable about forest ecology.
4. (This is a vague one): Paul (somebody) runs a firm called Arbortech in Toronto. He’s looking for mature Elm trees in southern Ontario.
5. Andy Dixon (Ailsa Craig, 293-3916) is a well-known tree farmer who has pioneered a new method of raising straight-stemmed trees.
6. MEC Tree Service in Thamesville (692-3195) will supply wood chips!
7. Lorne Spicer, of Shedden (764-2070) is a noted naturalist and very familiar with arborculture techniques.
8. The Elgin County Woodlot Owners Association  
c/o KCCA,  
RR#8, St Thomas  
Ontario, N5P 3T3