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“Let’s Manage Some” Blue Ribbon Hardwoods No. 1
Michigan State University
Cooperative Extension Service
Natural Resources Series
Melvin R. Koelling, Lester E. Bell and Roy E. Skog
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American basswood

Black cherry

Black walnut

Northern red oak

Sugar maple

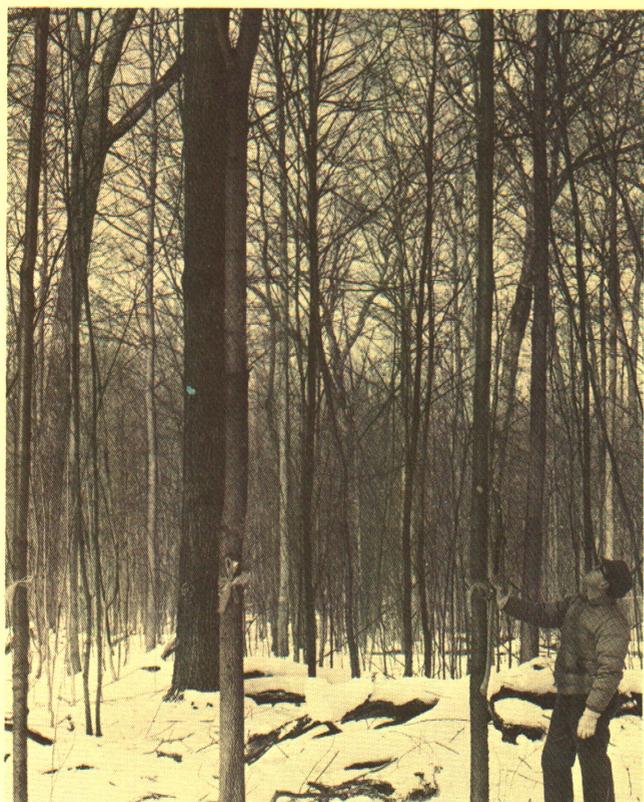
Yellow birch

Yellow poplar

White oak

"LETS GROW SOME" BLUE RIBBON HARDWOODS

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Michigan State University



Blue ribbon crop trees should be marked before thinning operation starts. These marked trees are maple, cherry, and basswood.

Let's Grow Some

BLUE RIBBON HA

Fine hardwood trees represent the best of America's forests. Wood from these strong, versatile, durable, and highly popular trees has been a staple product in building America. From colonial times to the present, these hardwood trees have furnished the favorite wood for manufacturing high quality institutional, industrial, and home furnishings.

With today's expanding populations the demand for high quality American hardwoods has never been greater. In spite of synthetic or substitute products, the demand continues to increase. However, there is a growing awareness that the future need for quality hardwood lumber will exceed the available supply unless appropriate measures are taken to provide for future crops.

Dense forest stands compete for sunlight, moisture, and soil nutrients. This stand needs culling to give each crop tree more room to grow.



HARDWOODS

MELVIN R. KOELLING
LESTER E. BELL
ROY E. SKOG

WHAT CAN THE WOODLAND OWNER DO?

Michigan woodland owners can help protect this valuable natural resource by planting, protecting, and stimulating growth of these select hardwoods. Over one-half of Michigan is forest land. The majority of these forests are young and vigorous, and contain many potentially valuable trees. The climate, soil, and location of the state of Michigan are such that many of this country's most valuable tree species grow in one part or another of this state, with a few species common throughout.

NEW PRACTICES APPLIED

Modern timber growing is no longer a once-in-a-lifetime crop. Recent improvements in technology have permitted growth rates which a few years ago were thought impossible. The use of fertilizers, chemical weed control and good timber stand improvement practices hold the promise for doubling or even tripling previous growth rates of trees under optimum conditions.

Furthermore, tree quality is usually much improved after the application of cultural practices. As an example, foresters now think of producing veneer quality black walnut logs in 40 to 60 years. Other species may produce veneer logs in an even shorter period of time. Further advances in tree genetics may shorten considerably this rotational period.

Thinning and releasing second growth hardwood can start at any stage. Highest valued, straightest stems, and those of seedling origin are favored. Remove the others.

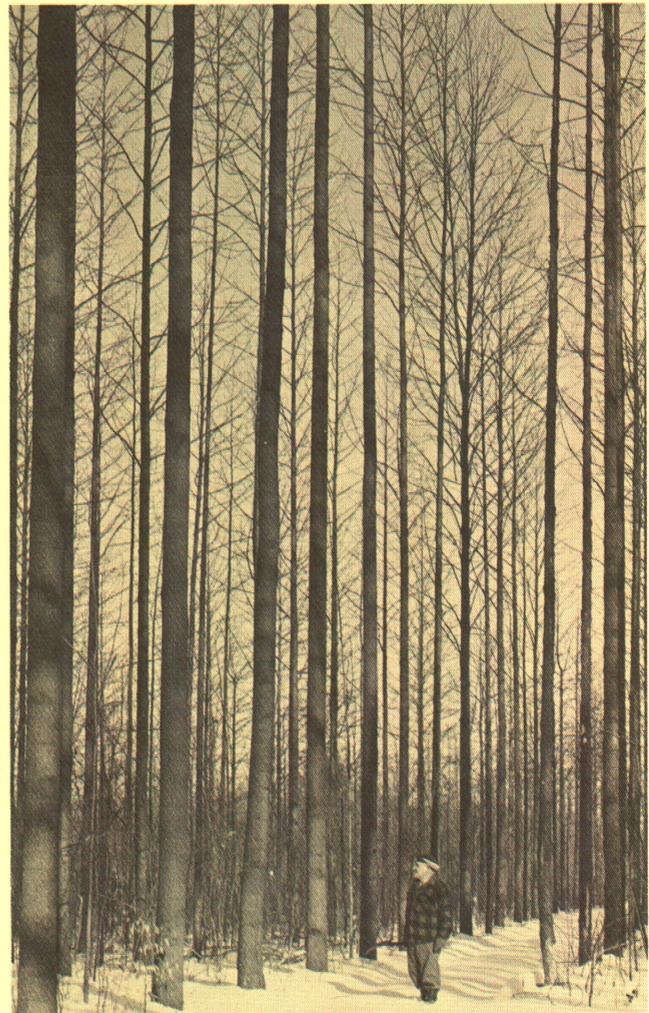


Photo by R. L. Olmstead, Michigan Department of Conservation.

Stand of 30-year-old yellow poplars planted on abandoned farm land augments future supply of fine hardwoods.

Select good crop trees. Cull competing trees, and prune side branches to promote growth of clear, knot-free lumber or veneer.



WHICH SPECIES ARE DESIRED?

Sugar maple, yellow poplar, yellow birch, American basswood, black cherry, black walnut, red oak, and white oak are all worthy of more intensive forest management in an attempt to produce high quality veneer and sawlog material.

WHAT ABOUT CASH RETURNS?

What about the economic returns and financial value of quality hardwoods? Current prices for quality veneer logs range from \$100 per thousand board feet for red oak to over \$500 per thousand board feet for black walnut. Exceptional logs may command even higher prices.

For the future, the picture is even brighter. As the available supply of large diameter, high quality logs decreases, the cost for available material is expected to increase. Expenditures both in time and money for producing quality hardwood timber are certain to pay increased dividends in the years ahead.

PRESENT STANDS NEED ATTENTION

The greatest immediate potential for producing high quality hardwood timber is to be found in our existing woodlots. Most of these woodlots contain young specimens of valuable trees. However, for these trees to grow and develop rapidly into the high quality product which will be in demand, the following cultural practices are recommended:

- Fertilization,
- Elimination of grass,
- Culling low value competing trees,
- Artificial pruning of selected individual "crop trees,"
- Planting or favoring existing young seedlings for future stands to help shorten production time.

America needs high quality hardwood timber. The woodland owner is in a favorable position to help meet this need. Technological information necessary for production is available. The time to prepare for future harvests is now.

Some additional publications on hardwood trees include the following:

1. American Walnut Manufacturers Assoc. (unnumbered publication.) Growing Walnut for Profit and Pleasure.
2. Bell, L. E., 1962. Improve Your Timber Stands. Extension Folder F-311. Coop. Ext. Ser. Michigan State University, E. Lansing.
3. Boyce, S. G., 1967. Growing Hardwood Trees for Products and Services. U.S.D.A. Forest Service, (unnumbered publication).
4. Chapmen, A. G., 1961. Planting Black Walnut for Timber. U.S.D.A. Leaflet 487. 6 pp.
5. Fine Hardwoods Assoc. Hardwood Dollars and Sense. (unnumbered publication.)

Blue Ribbon Trees is an educational program sponsored by Michigan State University, the Michigan Department of Conservation, and related forest industries to encourage commercial production of high quality hardwood trees.



High quality veneer logs are a top product of the forester's art. High grade logs such as these come only from Blue Ribbon trees.

FOR ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE

In working with Blue Ribbon hardwoods you may need additional help; if you do contact the following:

For educational assistance:

- Your local County Extension Agent, Cooperative Extension Service

For on-the-ground forestry advice:

- Your local District Forester, Michigan Department of Conservation

For soils work or site selection:

- Your local Soil Conservationist, County Soil Conservation District, U.S. Soil Conservation Service

For financial assistance:

- Your local county office of the Agricultural Stabilization Committee — Agricultural Conservation Program

For general information on forestry and tree farming:

- Extension Forester, Cooperative Extension Service, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan 48823
- The American Forest Products Industries Inc., 1816 N. Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036
- The Fine Hardwoods Association, 666 North Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60611
- The American Walnut Manufacturers Association, 666 North Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60611

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