

Pre-Merchantable Thinning

The uniform spacing of dense, natural or previously treated, sapling to young softwood, mixedwood or hardwood stands to select the best quality stems, as crop trees, thus improve species composition and enhance growth of the spaced crop trees. Stems removed during this treatment will be both commercial and non-commercial size.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Stands must have the potential to develop a minimum of 250-crop trees/ha of sawlog and veneer quality.
- Crop trees must be windfirm, healthy dominants and co-dominants of the desired species with well-formed crowns.
- A live crown ratio of at least one-third is required.
- Low thinnings are not eligible under this treatment.
- Thinnings must be done to release the crown of crop trees.
- Stands must have a basal area ranging between 10-18m²/ha stems 8cm (or greater) at dbh.
- Minimum density eligible for this treatment is 3,000 stems/ha. (1,200 stems/acre)
- Eligible stands must not exceed the maximum age requirements outlined below.

<u>Species</u>	<u>Max. DBH Age</u>
fir and field white spruce	45
spruce, cedar	55
jack pine	*
red pine	50
white pine, hemlock	60
tamarack	40
white ash	55
yellow birch, sugar maple	60
red oak, red maple	60
white birch, poplar	40

*Jack pine is eligible for this treatment only if the diameter increment indicates less than 10 years suppression. Maximum age is 45 years.

Inspection Criteria:

- Basal area to be removed must be between 25-40% in a uniform manner.
- Hy-grading is not permitted.
- Stocking of poplar not to exceed 25%.
- A minimum of 250-crop trees/ha must have been released on at least three sides.
- Post treatment densities must fall between 1,200-2,200 stems/ha.
- A minimum stocking requirement of 60% is required.

SNB Fund Assistance Rate: \$750/ha