

Forests Ontario Fact Sheet

Tree Facts

- An 80-year-old tree is 50 per cent carbon.
- A wood-framed home stores the same amount of carbon as is emitted by running a family car for five years.
- Ontario is home to over 85 billion trees.

Forests Ontario Facts

- Forests Ontario's CEO, Rob Keen, has 38 years of experience as a Registered Professional Forester.
- Forests Ontario was established in 2014 through a merger between Trees Ontario and the Ontario Forestry Association (OFA).
- Forests Ontario's longest running program is Tree Bee, an environmentally-themed competition for Grade 4 to 6 students. It was launched in 1952 by the Ontario Forestry Association.
- As of September, 2020, Forests Ontario has planted more than 30 million trees through the 50 Million Tree Program and has created more than 17,000 hectares of new forest. Forests Ontario has planted more than 34 million trees through all of its programs.
- Starting in 2019, the 50 Million Tree Program began receiving funding from the Government of Canada, corporate sponsors and donors. The program was previously funded by the Government of Ontario.
- Smokey Bear ("*only YOU can prevent forest fires*") is used as a mascot by Forests Ontario. Smokey's image was famously used as a mascot for the United States Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters before being adopted by OFA and, later, Forests Ontario.

Forest Sector Lingo

- Forests Ontario performs both **afforestation** and **restoration-based** tree plantings. The 50 Million Tree Program is both an afforestation and restoration program.
- **Afforestation** is the conversion of land that has not been forested for at least 50 years into forest through planting, seeding, and/or the promotion of natural regeneration.

- **Reforestation** generally refers to tree planting in areas that were harvested for wood products. With reforestation, people are intentionally cutting down trees (deforestation) and then planting trees to continue the cycle.
- **Restoration** is the act of returning an ecosystem to a former condition, following a disturbance. Examples include planting a forest devastated by the Emerald Ash Borer, planting in areas affected by wildfire, or planting to replace an invasive tree species removed from a site.
- **Deforestation** occurs when one cuts down a forest and does not replant.
- A **hectare** is equal to 10,000 square meters.
- Foresters and tree planters often deal in acres as well as hectares.
 - It takes 2.47 acres to make up 1 hectare.
 - The density of an afforestation planting ranges between 1200-2200 seedlings per hectare.
- A **cavity tree** is a dead standing tree, also called a snag, used by animals for nesting, protection from predators, or storing food.
- **Hand planting** uses a hand-held tool, such as a shovel, to plant trees. Planters often wear planting bags, which can hold hundreds of seedlings. Hand planting is often used for smaller sites or areas where a machine cannot operate (e.g. steep slopes).
- **Machine planting** is an efficient way to plant trees on open and larger areas of land (on average one acre or more). A tractor is used to tow a machine planter. The planter's coultter wheel opens a strip in the soil. A worker riding on the planter places a tree in the opening. Two closing wheels at the back of the machine seal the seedling into the earth.
- **Windbreak plantings** are trees planted strategically in rows to reduce wind. Windbreaks increase biodiversity and productivity for the whole property.
- **Living snow fences** are strategically planted strips of trees that prevent snow from blowing across fields.
- **Riparian planting** is planting on the edges of creeks, rivers, lakes, ponds and waterbodies to improve water quality and stabilize shorelines.
- **Registered Professional Foresters (RPFs)**, which are regulated by the Ontario Professional Forestry Association, work to sustainably manage Ontario's forests.
- **Sustainable forest management** allows for the use of forest resources for timber and pulp, while conserving and maintaining ecosystem health.
- **Silviculture** is the art and science of growing trees.
- **Carbon sequestration** is the process of storing atmospheric carbon dioxide over a long period of time. This prevents carbon from contributing to climate

change. Planting trees is an excellent method of carbon sequestration, as trees absorb carbon from the air.

- **Native species** are plants, trees or animals that occur naturally within a region.
- **Invasive species** are not native to an area and can cause major environmental and economic harm. European Buckthorn and the Emerald Ash Borer are examples of invasive species.
- **Non-native species** are not indigenous or native to a particular area, but are not necessarily invasive.
- A **Tree Marker** is a person who helps ensure the long-term health of a forest by making 'cut and leave' decisions based on a prescription from an RPF. Tree Markers select trees for harvest or retention based on their growth potential, benefits to local wildlife, and ability to provide seed.
- The **Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP)** allows landowners with 9.88 acres or more of forested land to benefit from a tax reduction of 75 per cent when they obtain a managed forest plan. Many landowners who plant trees under Forests Ontario's 50 Million Tree Program and meet the minimum acreage could be eligible for the MFTIP.

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For more information, photos, or to arrange an interview please contact:

MJ Kettleborough

Communications Manager

Forests Ontario/Forest Recovery Canada

Email: mkettleborough@forestsontario.ca

Work: 416-646-1193 x 237

Cell: 416 997 0880