



# Tree Farming in New Jersey

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A **TREE FARM** is a privately owned forest managed to produce a continuous crop of trees. There are more than 59,000 family tree farms in America who manage **77 MILLION ACRES**. The state Tree Farm program began in 1946, and today tree farmers in New Jersey manage over 300 certified and pioneer family tree farms. Altogether, 92,000 acres of private **FORESTLAND IS ACTIVELY MANAGED**. The largest tree farm in New Jersey is 9,000 acres, and the smallest is 10.

## TREE FARMING BENEFITS

- Sustain renewable resources of wood and paper
- Create healthy and aesthetically pleasing forests
- Enhance wildlife habitat
- Sustain quality of life
- Protect water, soil, and air quality
- Provide outdoor recreational opportunities

## CROP TREE MANAGEMENT

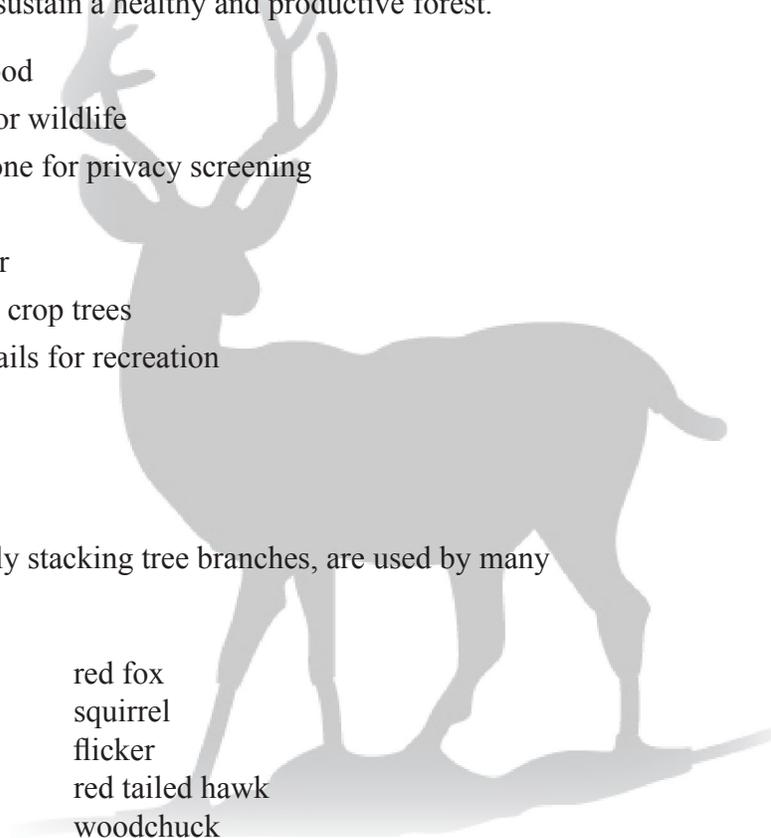
Visit the kiosk and talking tree at the Forest Resource Education Center. A forestry demonstration plot is managed here to sustain a healthy and productive forest.

- Produces timber and firewood
- Provides food and shelter for wildlife
- Maintains a forest buffer zone for privacy screening
- Absorbs noise
- Serves as a wildlife corridor
- Provides growing space for crop trees
- Creates scenic vistas and trails for recreation
- Prevents soil erosion

## BRUSH PILES & WILDLIFE

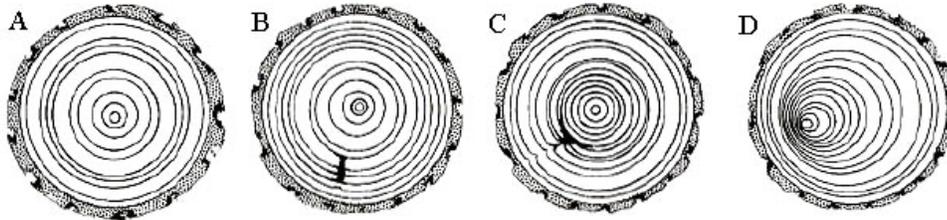
Wildlife brush piles, created by carefully stacking tree branches, are used by many animals including those listed below

- |               |             |                 |
|---------------|-------------|-----------------|
| beaver        | screech owl | red fox         |
| mouse         | chipmunk    | squirrel        |
| ruffed grouse | raccoon     | flicker         |
| box turtle    | skunk       | red tailed hawk |
| rabbit        | deer        | woodchuck       |



## TREE RING COMPARISON

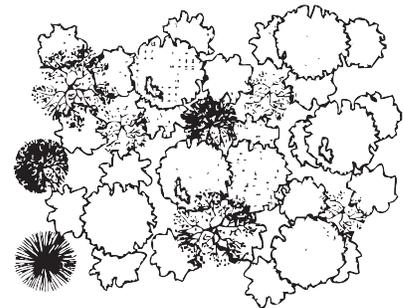
The annual rings on a tree cookie tell what happened to the tree over its lifetime. Cookie “A” shows that the tree was in a well spaced stand without many environmental stressors. Cookie “B” shows a tree in a stand which became a bit overcrowded as it got older. Cookie “C” started out in an overcrowded stand, but began growing better once the forest was thinned due to a forest fire. Cookie “D” shows a tree that was leaning sideways; the side that didn’t get sun grew much slower than the sunny side.



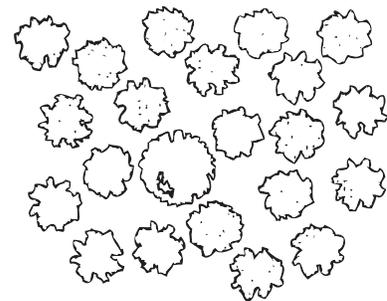
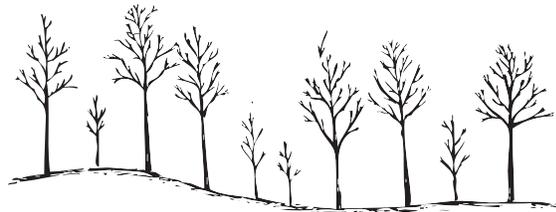
## IMPROVEMENT CUTTING

This forest management technique improves the quality and health of a forest stand by removing immature trees of poor form, defective or diseased, and undesirable species.

### Before Improvement Cutting



### After Improvement Cutting



## THINNING TREE STANDS

Foresters evaluate each plot and cut down or “thin” select trees because thinning allows the remaining trees to grow faster and produce more wood volume. These trees are healthier and can better withstand disease, insect attacks, and environmental stress.

### Foresters cut select trees in stands to:

- Allow other trees room to grow
- Remove weakened, misshapen trees
- Reduce fire hazards
- Increase habitat diversity
- Improve forest health