

The Acadian Forest of P.E.I.

Key Tree Species of the Acadian Forest on PEI

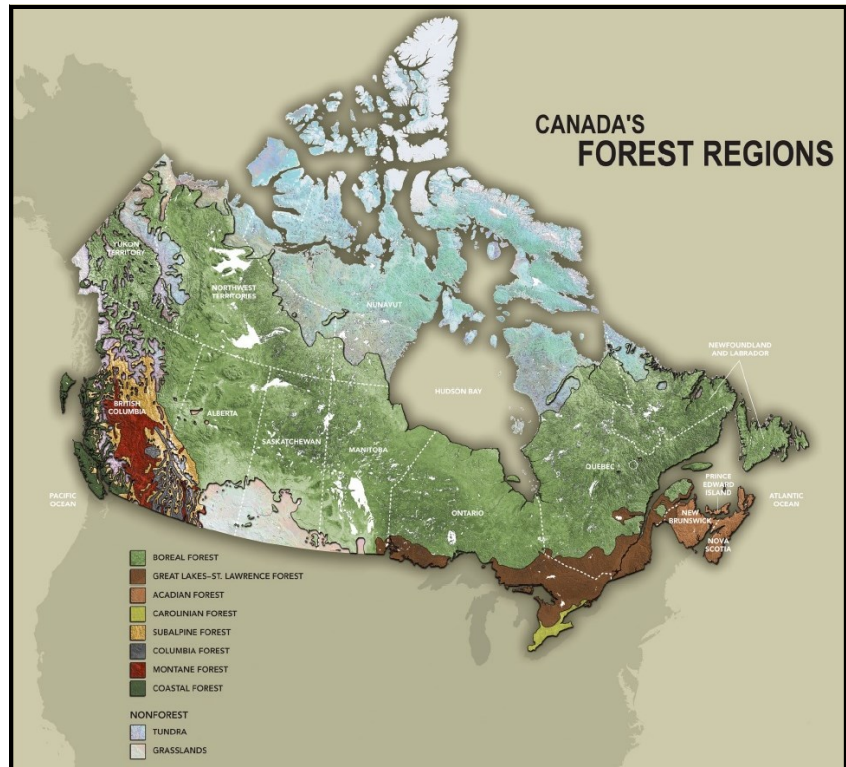
Hardwoods:

- Yellow Birch
- Sugar Maple
- Red Oak
- American Beech
- White Ash

Softwoods:

- Eastern Hemlock
- Red Spruce
- Eastern White Pine

<http://macphailwoods.org/forestry/the-acadian-forest/>



What is the Acadian forest?

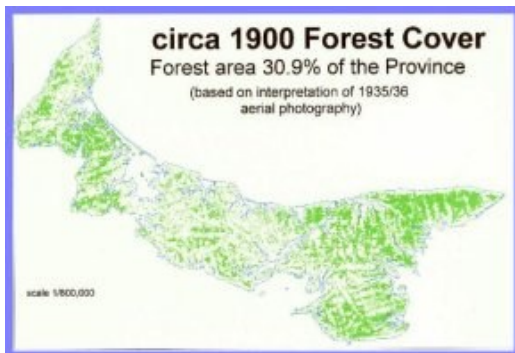
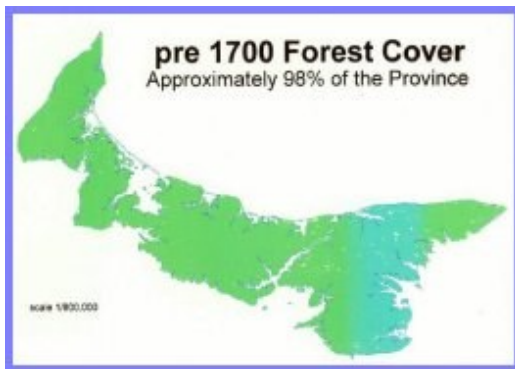
The Acadian Forest is one of eight forested regions in Canada, which covers most of the Maritimes, including P.E.I. It contains elements of both the Northern Hardwood and Boreal forests, creating a diverse blend of hardwood and softwood species. The Acadian forest is home to 32 native tree species, ranging from young saplings to mature trees, and even includes the dead wood.



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Deadwood

Dead and dying trees play a vital role in Acadian Forest ecology. They provide shelter and nest sites for many wildlife species such as birds, mammals and amphibians. Fallen deadwood is important in the nitrogen cycle. Decomposition creates fertile soil which helps the next generation of plants.



When early settlers first arrived on P.E.I. in the 1700's, over 95% of the island was covered in Acadian forest. By 1900, only 30% of the island was forested due to the mass clearing of land for homes and agricultural operations. Some of the cleared areas have since grown back into forested land, but lack the diversity that was once present in the Acadian forest.

