

Goal: Single tree selection thinning for timber stand improvement in northern hardwoods.

General rules and recommended order of removal for prioritizing “cut” trees (from Silvicultural Guidelines for Northern Hardwoods on State Forest lands in Michigan):

1. Risk – Cut high risk trees that are likely to die between cutting cycles (in the next 10-15 years).
2. Vigor – Cut low vigor trees / poorly formed stems, based on usable log length and potential decay.
3. Release crop trees – Cut poorer quality competitors to provide crown growing space around crop trees to promote growth and quality development. Choose the best trees for crop trees, regardless of species.
4. Improve spacing between trees.

Updated 3-29-11