

Vermont Forest Health Health of Leased Sugarbushes in 2012



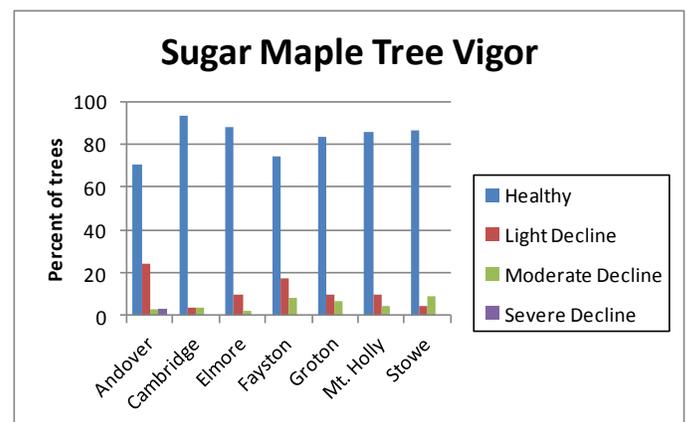
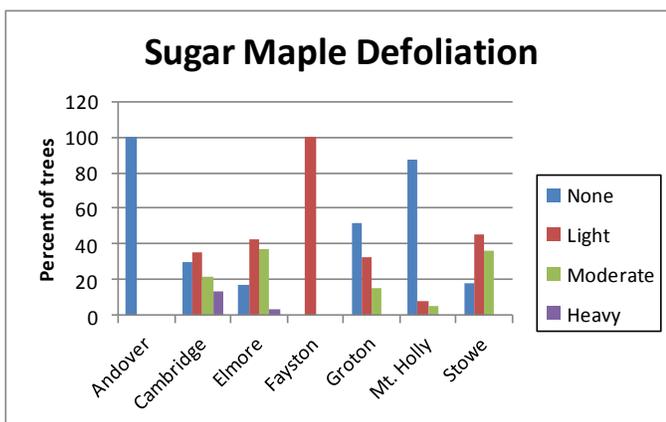
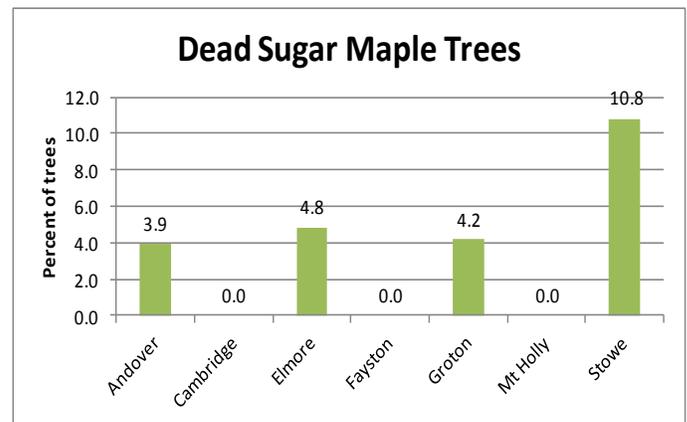
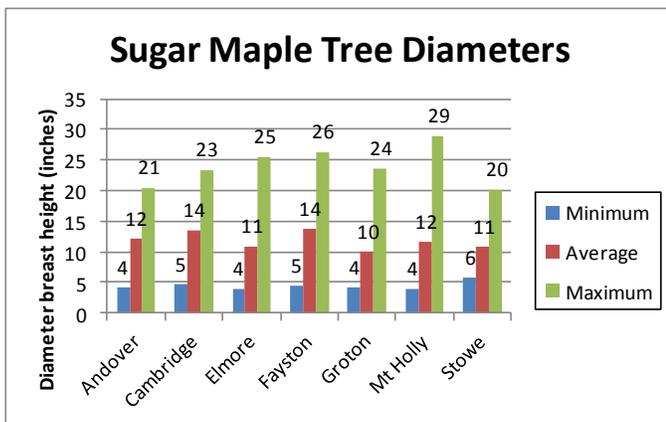
Department of Forests, Parks, & Recreation
September 2012 vtforest.com

Establishing Health Plots

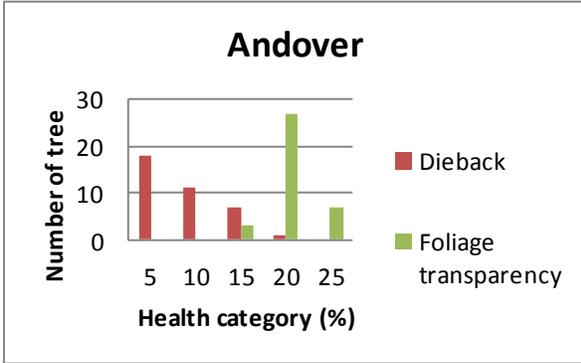
Seven health plots were established on state lands in 2012 on sites leased as sugarbushes. Plot design and measurements are the same as that of 30 other sugar maple health plots previously established under the North American Maple Project (NAMP). While no trend information is available this year, there are initial measurements that help describe the health and stand characteristics of existing sugar maple trees.

Initial Condition

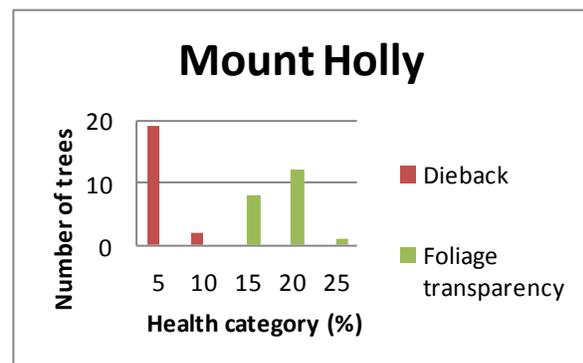
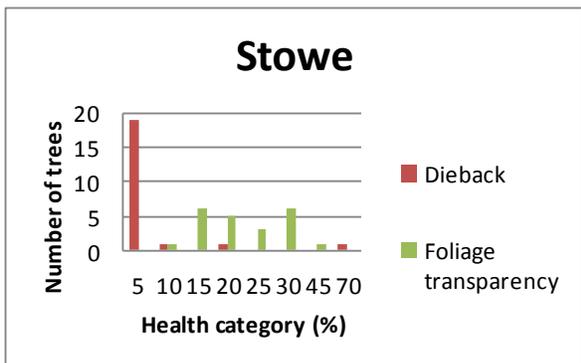
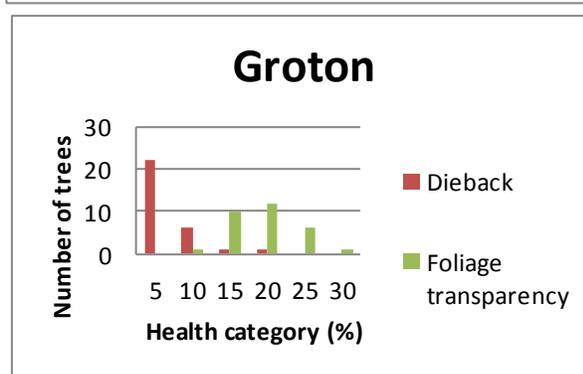
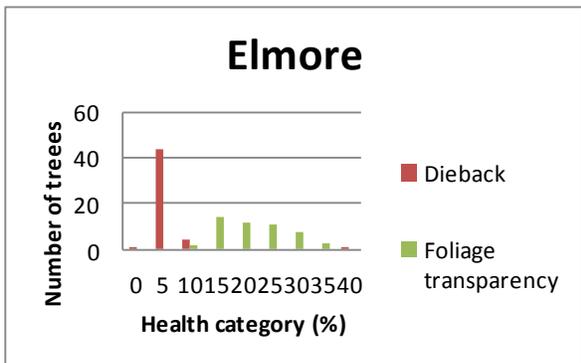
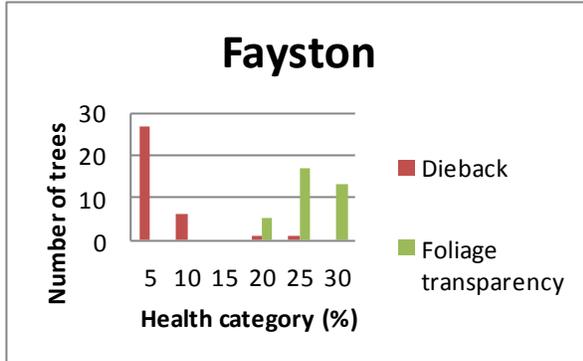
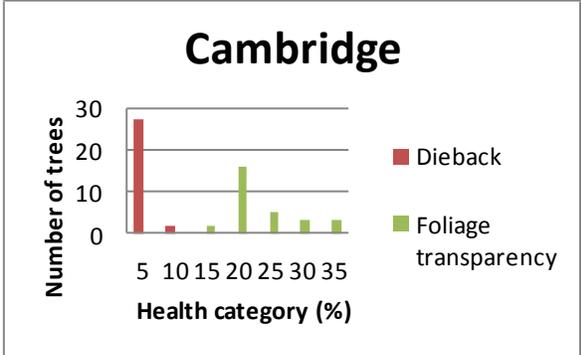
Results on tree diameters, standing dead trees, defoliation and tree vigor are presented below. Of note is the large number of dead trees at the Stowe site, substantial defoliation affecting four of the sites, and the relatively low tree vigor at the Andover site.



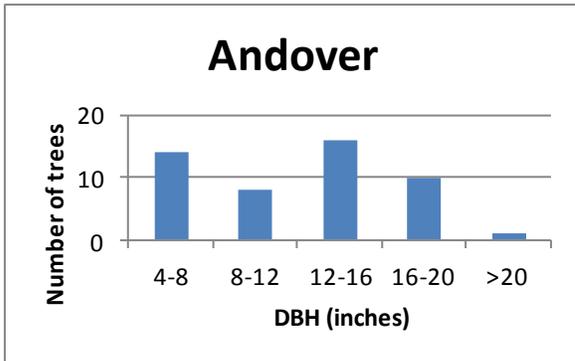
Sugar Maple Crown Health



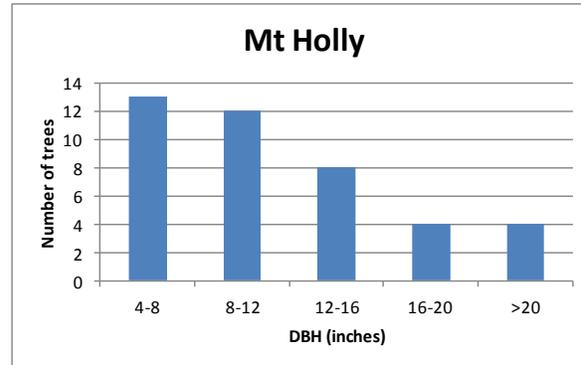
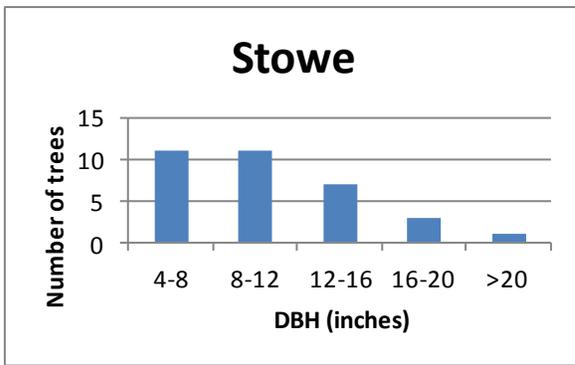
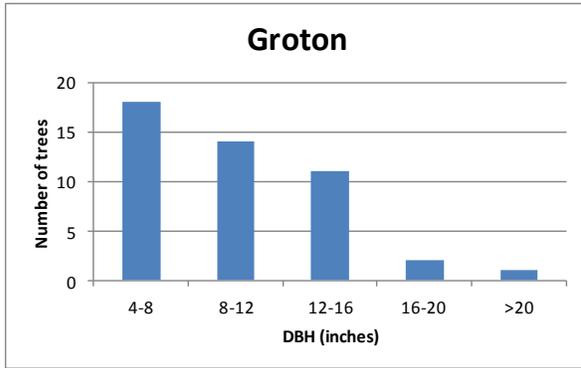
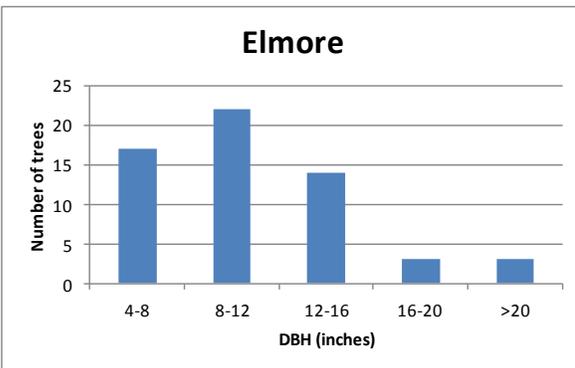
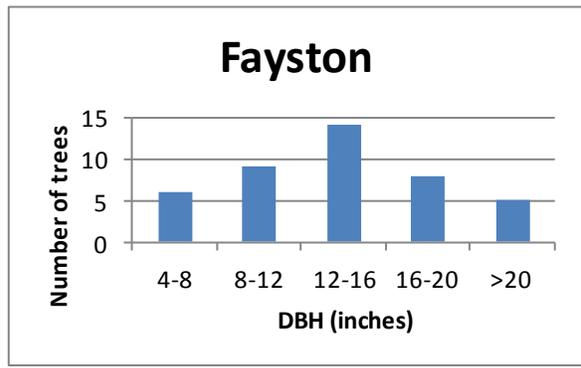
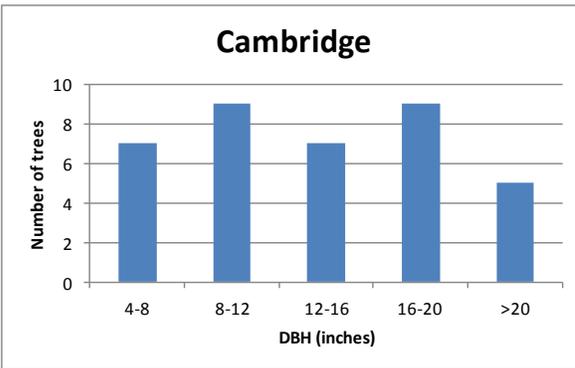
Healthy sugar maple trees have low dieback and foliage transparency. The Andover site had fewer trees with only 5-10% dieback indicating past stress impacts on tree health. Trees with high foliage transparency tended spanned across most plots, indicating current year stress.



Sugar Maple Diameter Distribution



Distribution of sugar maple tree diameters provides information about the proportion of trees within acceptable tapping size. It also reflects the abundance of smaller diameter trees available for future tapping.



For more information, contact the Forest Biology Laboratory at 802-879-5687 or:

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