

Vermont Forest Health



Tree Condition in Maple Sugaring Sites on State Lands: Results for 2013

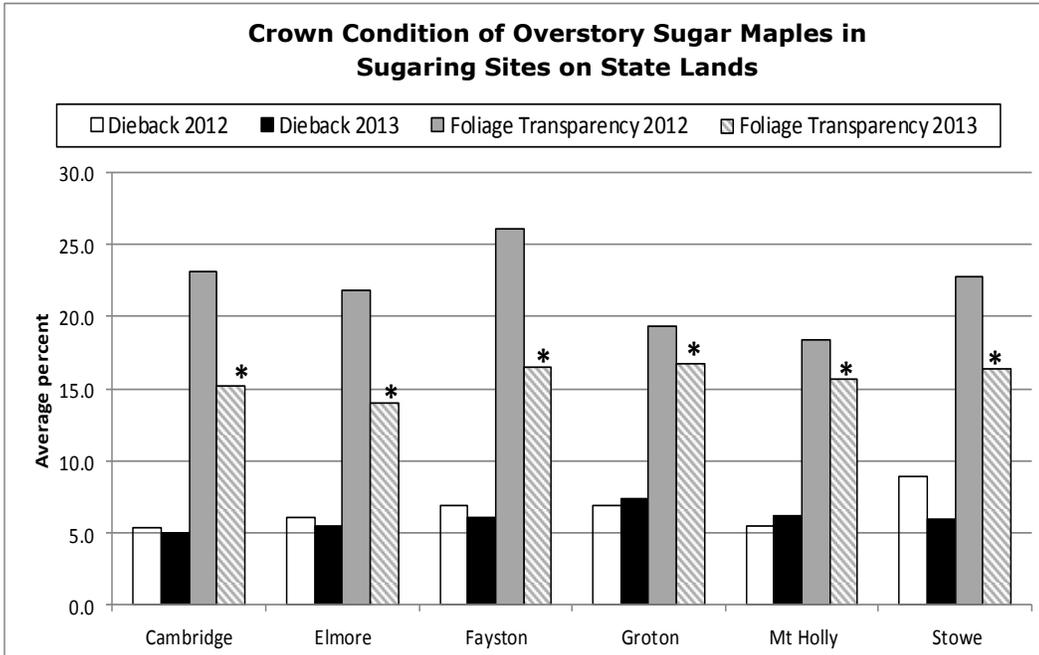
Department of Forests, Parks, & Recreation
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In 2012, forest health monitoring plots were established in the seven sites on state lands under license agreement for maple sugaring. Plot design and measurements are the same as for the 30 other sugar maple health monitoring plots in Vermont previously established under the North American Maple Project (NAMP). One site, in Andover, has since been discontinued as a sugarbush.

Substantial defoliation affected four of the sites in 2012 but none of the sites had any significant defoliation in 2013. As a consequence, the foliage transparency rating, which indicates leaf density, showed significant improvements in 2013 on all sites. There was no significant difference in crown dieback, between 2012 and 2013, at any of the sites.

The 2013 sugar maple condition ratings on the six sites were similar to average ratings for the 30 NAMP plots, which include sugarbush and untapped maple stands scattered throughout the state. Dieback and transparency for overstory trees averaged 6% and 16%, compared to 7% and 16% for the NAMP plot maples.

Crown Condition of Overstory Sugar Maples in Sugaring Sites on State Lands



Dieback evaluates new dead twigs. Higher ratings indicate current or past stress effects on tree health.

Foliage Transparency evaluates the density of leaves. Higher ratings indicate thinner foliage, and reflect current year stress.

** Indicates sites where the foliage transparency rating was significantly lower in 2013 than it was in 2012.*



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

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