



Remove competing trees to give your preferred trees room to grow.

Is my backyard woods suited to this technique?

If most trees are at least 25 feet tall, then your woods is probably a candidate for this technique. Usually when trees are this tall their crowns are touching. Often, this occurs in broadleaf trees when they are about 4 inches in diameter at a point 4.5 feet above the ground.

While this technique has been used mostly with broadleaf trees such as oak, maple, and ash, it also may be used with needleleaf trees such as pine, spruce, and fir. The variety of trees available in your woods will vary depending on your geographic location, available moisture and nutrients, and the actions of any previous landowners.

How many preferred trees should I have?

The number of potential preferred trees depends on the climate, soil, species of trees, previous management activities, and—most importantly—the age of your woods. A woods with younger trees has many small trees, therefore more preferred trees can be selected than an older woods with fewer trees. The actual number of preferred trees to select depends on your objectives. Each preferred tree selected should help you reach at least one of your objectives.