

# SILVAH QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

## Regeneration plot (6-ft. radius plot)

**Black cherry:** Count all seedlings  $\geq 2$  inches tall with 2 normal-sized leaves. Stems  $> 1$  foot tall are counted twice.

**Yellow-poplar:** Same as black cherry.

**Other desirables:** Same as black cherry. Maples must pass the tug test. For hickory and walnut, count all stems meeting established oak criteria. Stems meeting competitive oak criteria are counted twice.

**Conifers:** Count any hemlock, pine, or spruce seedling with 2 whorls OR 0.5-1 foot tall. Stems w/  $\geq 3$  whorls or  $> 1$  foot tall are counted twice.

**Competitive Oak:** Stump sprouts or stems  $> 3$  feet tall OR with a root collar diameter (RCD)  $> 0.75$  inches. Weight count by site index (see table, right).

**Established Oak:** Count all stems 0.5–3 feet tall OR with RCD 0.25–0.75 inches.

**New Oak:** Count all stems  $< 0.5$  inches tall and a RCD  $< 0.25$  inches.

**Saplings:** 2 stems 1-2" dbh or 1 stem 3-5" dbh of a younger age class than main canopy. Record species code.

**Residuals:** Good quality stems 6-10 inches dbh that are the same age as main canopy and will be retained after final harvest. Record species code.

**Tall woody interference:** Undesirable species as tall as or taller than eye level (6') rooted in or overtopping the plot. Record species code of the dominant stem.

## Stocking criteria for species and species groups (numbers are weighted counts per plot)

Deer Impact Index	Black cherry	Yellow-poplar	Other desirables	New Oak	Est. Oak	Comp. Oak site class		
						L	M	H
5	50	100	200	200	100	1	2	3
4	25	50	100	100	50	1	2	3
3	20	10	50	50	25	1	2	3
2	15	5	30	25	12	1	2	3
1	10	1	15	25	12	1	2	3

## Weighting factors for competitive oaks

Regen Height RCD	Oak Site Index (BOF Site Class)		
	High $> 75'$ (1)	Medium 55-75' (2)	Low $< 55'$ (3)
Ht $> 10'$ RCD $> 1.5''$	3	5	10
Ht $> 7'$ RCD 1-1.5"	2	3	5
Ht $> 3'$ RCD 0.75-1"	1	1	1

## Interference Plot (26-foot radius plot)

**Low Woody Interference:** Visually group foliage of shrubs and undesirable trees lower than eye-level tall together. Estimate cover by 5% increments. Record percent cover and code of the dominant species.

**Fern (bracken, hay-scented, New York):** Estimate percent cover by 5% increments. For other fern species, report half the cover. If  $> 50\%$  coverage, record in 10% increments.

**Grass and Sedge:** Estimate percent cover by 5% increments. Record 1% even if only a trace of grass or sedge is present.

**Grapevine:** Record the number of grapevines rooted in the plot.

**Site limitations:** Record if present on the plot. 1= poor drainage, 2= rocky/thin soil, 3= thick duff.

**Deer Impact Level:** Assessed in plots and between plots. One value assigned to the entire stand.

- 1) No impact – found only inside well-maintained woven-wire deer-exclosure fences
- 2) Low impact – desirable regeneration abundant and of varying heights. Herbaceous plants common (see examples, right). Stump sprouts present.
- 3) Medium impact – desirable regeneration present but with little height variability. Herbaceous plants rare. No stump sprouts. Non-preferred browse and browse-resilient plant species are noticeably common and widespread
- 4) High impact – desirable regeneration rare to absent. Non-preferred and browse-resilient vegetation limited in height growth by deer browsing.
- 5) Very high impact – desirable regeneration absent. Abundance of non-preferred vegetation is also reduced by browsing, browse-resilient plants show signs of heavy repeated browsing and a browse line is readily evident



Maianthemum spp.



Trillium



Indian cucumber root

**AGS =** desirable species that contain at least one grade 3 log or will in the future, likely to persist another 10 years.

**UGS =** trees that do not contain at least one grade 3 or better log and never will, or are not likely to persist another 10 years.

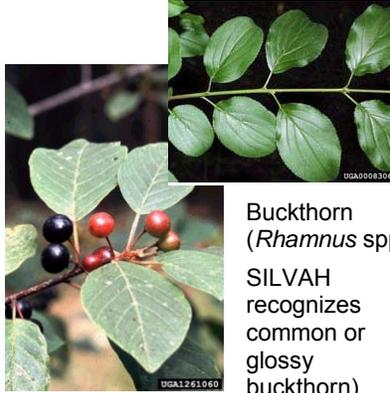
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Non-native Invasive Species: Record presence on any understory plot or presence in or near the stand in the comments section of the tally form. Some species of particular interest include:

### Trees:



Tree-of-heaven  
(*Ailanthus* spp.)



Buckthorn  
(*Rhamnus* spp.)  
SILVAH recognizes common or glossy buckthorn



Japanese stiltgrass  
(*Microstegium vimineum*)



Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*)



Japanese barberry  
(*Berberis thunbergii*)



Japanese knotweed  
(*Polygonum cuspidatum*,  
*P. sachalinense*)

### Shrubs:



Bush honeysuckles (*Lonicera* spp.)  
SILVAH recognizes Amur, Tatarian or generic bush honeysuckle species)



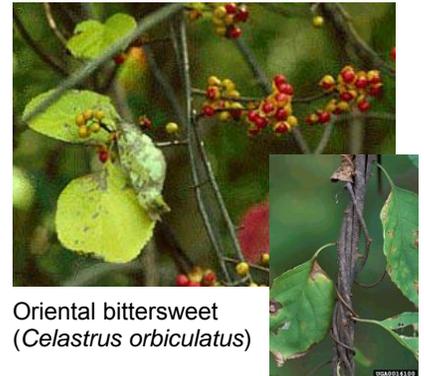
Multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*)

### Forbs/Grasses:



Garlic mustard  
(*Alliaria petiolata*)

### Vines:



Oriental bittersweet  
(*Celastrus orbiculatus*)



Autumn or Russian olive  
(*Elaeagnus* spp.)



Japanese honeysuckle  
(*Lonicera japonica*)