



NORTHERN HARDWOOD NOTES

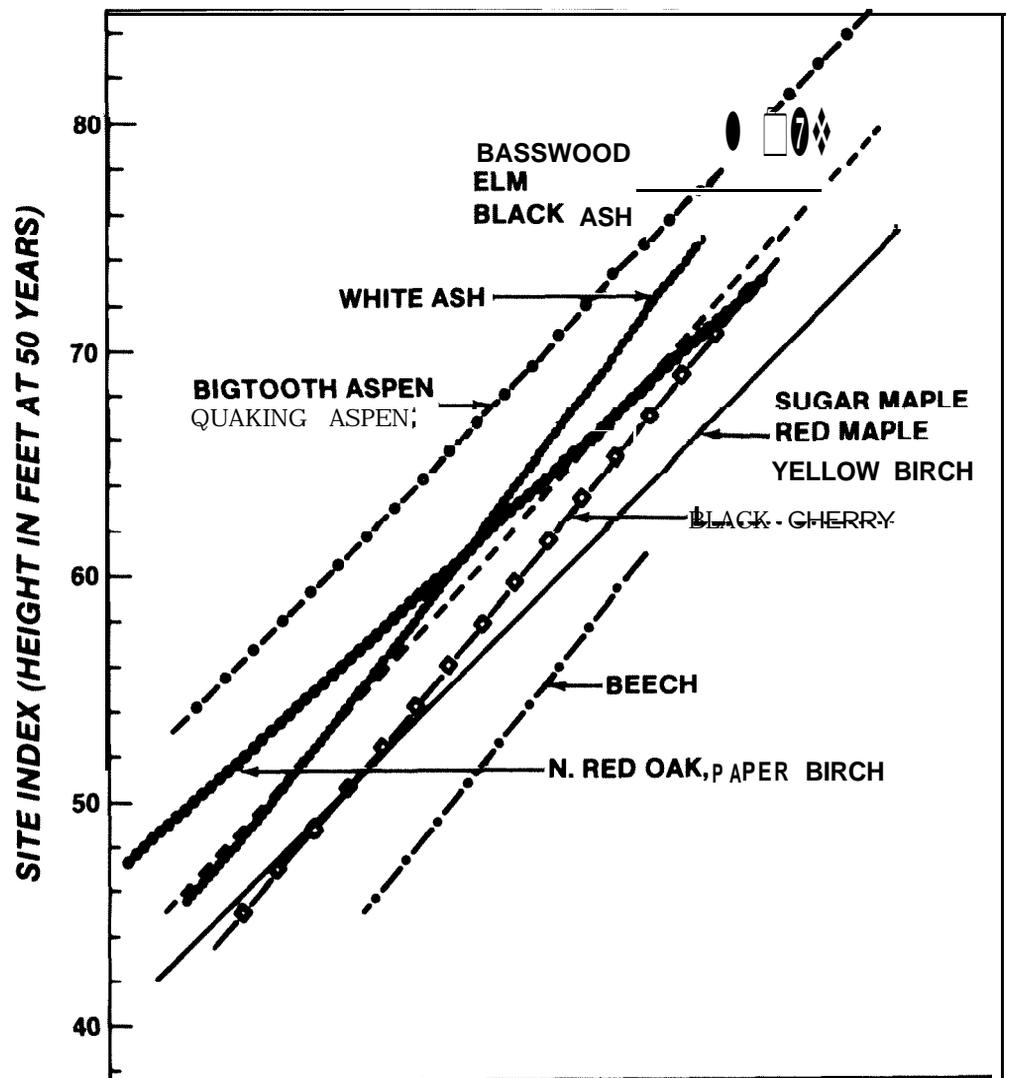
Site Index Comparisons Among Hardwoods

Site index is one of the more easily measured indicators of the productive capacity of an area for a given species. In mixed stands, the site index of one species can be used to predict the site index of another. Site index also illustrates growth differences among species.

Recently, reliable curves for the major hardwood species have been developed that have made comparisons in the Upper Great Lakes region possible. The curves below compare site index for 13 species found in northern Wisconsin and Upper Michigan.

How to Use the Curves

Simply read directly above or below the known value to the curve of the desired species. For example, if you know the site index for aspen to be 72, find that number on the aspen curve. Then read directly downward to the white ash curve to find the corresponding site index for that species (68.5).



Note: A common sugar maple site index range on the Argonne and Upper Peninsula Experimental Forests in Wisconsin and Michigan, respectively, is 62 to 65.

(Reproduced from Carmean, W. H. Site index comparisons among northern hardwoods in northern Wisconsin and Upper Michigan. Res. Pap. NC-169. St. Paul, MN: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, North Central Forest Experiment Station; 1979. 17 p.)

Annotated References

Carmean, W. H. Site index curves for northern hardwoods in northern Wisconsin and Upper Michigan. Res. Pap. NC-160. St. Paul, MN: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, North Central Forest Experimental Station; 1978. 16 p.

Describes the construction of site index curves for 13 species and comments on the forms of the curves by species and differences in site quality.

Carmean, W. H. A comparison of site index curves for northern hardwood species. Res. Pap. NC-167. St. Paul, MN: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, North Central Forest Experiment Station; 1979. 12 p.

Reviews and comments on the several previously developed site index curves for northern hardwood species in the eastern United States.

Carmean, W. H. Site index comparisons among northern hardwoods in northern Wisconsin and Upper Michigan. Res. Pap. NC-169. St. Paul, MN: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, North Central Forest Experiment Station; 1979. 17 p.

Illustrates differences in site index between species and changes over the range of site indices.

Richard M. Godman