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Relationship Of Stump Diameter To D.b.h. For Northern Red Oak In The Northeast

This is the fifth report on a series of studies to show the relationship of stump diameter to diameter breast high (d.b.h.) for commercially important tree species in the Northeast.* This report is for northern red oak (Quercus rubra).

In this study 1,240 stump-diameter measurements were used, ranging from 4 inches to 37 inches. Both stump diameters and d.b.h. were measured to the nearest 1/10-inch with a diameter tape. To obtain diameter inside bark, bark thickness was measured with a Swedish bark gage. Stump heights were measured on the uphill side to the nearest 1/10-foot.

It was found that 74 percent of the stumps left on logging operations were between 0.6 and 1.8 feet high; 12 percent were higher than 1.8 feet; and 14 percent were lower than 0.6 foot.

In the computations, inside-bark stump diameters were used, to avoid inaccuracies due to unequal bark thickness, logging damage to bark, and bark peeling off. Stump diameters were sorted into 2-inch classes. Stump-height measurements were sorted into 0.6-foot classes within each stump-diameter class.

To develop an equation expressing the stump diameter--d.b.h. relationship for red oak, the method described by Deming** was used. The following equation was obtained:

D.b.h. = 0.739 (stump d.i.b.) + 2.072 (stump height) - 0.773

The relationships developed from this equation were worked out as a graph (fig. 1).

To determine the 2-inch d.b.h. class of a red oak stump from this graph, you merely plot the intersection of

the vertical ordinate (stump height) with the horizontal ordinate (stump diameter). For example, for a stump 18.9 inches in diameter and 1.4 feet high, the two lines intersect about halfway between the two limits of the 16-inch d.b.h. class.

Comparison of actual d.b.h.'s and those calculated with the equation showed an average weighted difference of less than 0.2 inch. The standard error of estimate for all data was 0.594 inch. At the mean of stump diameters, you can expect 91 percent of the estimates of d.b.h. to fall in the correct 2-inch d.b.h. class. The other 9 percent can be expected to fall one class above or below the correct one. None will fall outside this range. These errors are compensating. As the stump diameters increase beyond the mean of these data, the error will also increase.

(If you use the graph by 1-inch d.b.h. classes, this is what you can expect: 60 percent of the estimates should fall in the correct 1-inch d.b.h. class; 39 percent should fall one class above or below it; and 1 percent should fall outside this range.)

For all practical purposes this graph is expected to give reliable d.b.h. estimates for red oak anywhere in the Northeast.

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*For earlier reports on these studies see Forest Research Note No. 38 (white pine), No. 42 (sugar maple), No. 43 (American beech), and No. 45 (yellow birch)

**Deming, W. Edwards. Statistical adjustment of data. 261 pp., illus. Wiley & Sons, New York. 1938.

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STUMP DIAMETER– D.B.H. RELATIONSHIP FOR

NORTHERN RED OAK

IN THE NORTHEAST

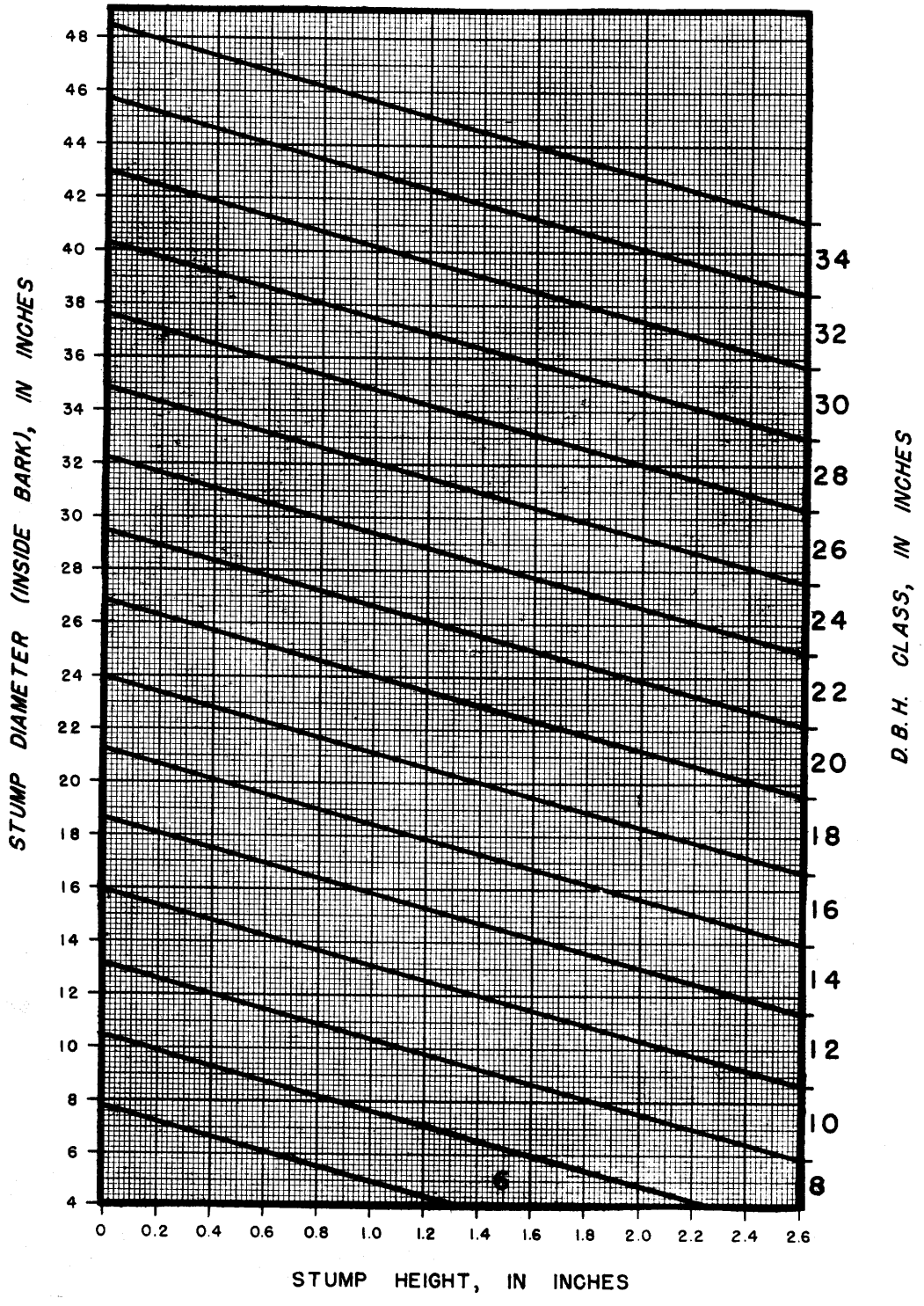

Figure 1