
ECOFORREST INVENTORY ON YOUR LAND



ECOFORREST INVENTORY

The Gouvernement du Québec has been carrying out ecoforest inventories south of the 52nd parallel for nearly fifty years. These inventories are used to collect and publish data on Québec's forests in order to monitor their evolution and ensure that they are sustainably managed. It takes approximately ten years to cover the entire territory (588,200 km²).

The Ministère des Ressources naturelles et des Forêts carries out inventories on both public and private land in order to obtain an overall picture of Québec's forests. Landowners therefore play an essential role in this process by allowing the Department's agents to access their woodlots.



WHAT IS DONE ON YOUR LAND?

Specialists hired by the Ministère des Ressources naturelles et des Forêts carry out specific measurements within what is known as a **sample plot**. They identify the forest species composition as well as the density, height and age of the forest stand. The trees are numbered using paint and the species, diameter, quality and vigour of each tree is recorded. A description of certain ecological variables (type of surficial deposit, drainage, soil texture, etc.) is also produced. The collection of this data follows technical inventory norms.

Four to nine trees from each sample plot are examined in greater detail for age and height. In some cases, an increment core is removed for laboratory analysis. To do this, a small hole of 5 mm (¼ inch) in diameter is made in the tree at one meter above the ground. This small hole closes in under two years and does not damage the tree.

The flagging tape used to identify the trees is biodegradable and the marks and numbers painted on the trees during the measuring process are as discreet as possible. The work done leaves no trace in the medium term.

Increment core, actual size »



« No trees are cut down or damaged during the inventory.



WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A PERMANENT AND A TEMPORARY SAMPLE PLOT?

A sample plot is a forest measurement and observation unit placed at random within a given area. It is circular in shape, with a radius of 11.28 meters. There are two types of sample plots:

- » Permanent sample plots (yellow paint)
- » Temporary sample plots (green paint)

PERMANENT SAMPLE PLOT

The network of 12,000 permanent sample plots is used to monitor the growth of Québec's forests over time. The trees in a permanent plot are measured approximately once every ten years.

TEMPORARY SAMPLE PLOT

Temporary sample plots are used to estimate standing timber volumes, basal areas and number of trees per hectare. Trees in these plots are measured only once.

The number of temporary sample plots in a given area varies according to the composition and diversity of the forest cover as well as the type of property (public or private).

AFTER THE INVENTORY

When the inventory is complete, a report containing all the data gathered from the sample plot is sent to the landowner.

Landowners are not obliged to keep the trees standing in a sample plot.



CONTACT US

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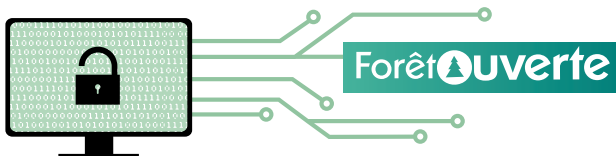
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FORÊT OUVERTE

All data from the ecoforest inventory can be consulted on our free interactive map: *Forêt ouverte*. You can, for example, find a detailed map of the forest stands on your lot.

foretouverte.gouv.qc.ca



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