environmental farm plan
sustainably farmed

INFOSHEET #22

WOODLANDS AND WILDLIFE

How to address concerns identified in Environmental Farm Plan Worksheet #22

Based on Environmental Farm Plan Workbook, 5th ed. 2025

This infosheet outlines options to address concerns identified in your Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) as they relate to woodlands and wildlife.

All options in this infosheet are classed as **Actions** or **Compensating Factors**.

- **Actions** address the identified concern, and will change the EFP rating to (3) or (4) Best.
- **Compensating Factors** are alternatives that will adequately address the concern, but will not change the rating in the EFP worksheet.

In most cases, you'll need more information before choosing and implementing options. Sources for more information are noted at the end of this infosheet.

For help with technical terms, please see the full glossary in your EFP Workbook.

Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership
OSCIA
Ontario
Canada

WOODLOT MANAGEMENT
(may include areas that support maple syrup production)

22-1. Woodlot management

BACKGROUND

A woodlot offers environmental, economic and social benefits. Woodlot benefits include oxygen production, carbon sequestration, weather and temperature moderation, water table maintenance, reduced soil erosion and surface runoff, and wildlife habitat. They also provide opportunities for recreation as well as health and cultural enrichment.

Clearing a woodlot for intensive agriculture can put fragile land at risk from wind and water erosion. In dry areas, woodlot removal may cause soil loss and water tables to drop. In wet areas, water tables may rise to the surface.

In a woodlot, trees can be incorporated into the farm operation, offering value on and off the farm. Trees can be used for veneer, timber, fuel wood, posts, poles, sugar products, nuts, etc.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

OPTION 1 – ACTION

Develop and follow a forest management plan for profit:

- include wildlife habitat and environmental protection as integral parts of the plan
- determine the potential of all woodlands as woodlots, conifer plantations, treed swamps and mixed bush, and match these with your needs and expectations
- target the desirable tree species and establish the overall purpose for the woodlot management plan (e.g., timber, maple syrup, speciality woods, wildlife habitat, etc.)
- consider forest management objectives that promote habitat for species at risk and other species of interest to the farm
- follow your management plan and pay particular attention to tree stand condition and intensity of previous harvests
- use a standing timber sale agreement when marketing wood for sale in order to receive full value for the trees harvested
- use the skills of a registered professional forester (RPF) to assist with:
    - hiring reputable contractors
    - marking and selection of wood for sale
    - arranging what is for sale
    - reviewing timber sale agreements
    - overseeing harvest operations
    - reviewing and updating your forest management plan often (minimum of every 10 years)

Don’t forget to select the trees for harvest based on your management plan objectives. Take some valuable, mature or defective trees, but not more than 30% of trees as they increase in value rapidly as they mature.

22–1. Woodlot management, *continued*

WHAT CAN YOU DO?, *continued*

OPTION 2 – ACTION

Minimize the damage to the woodlot environment and the standing timber by:

- design your access roads, stream crossings, landings and skid trails to minimize damage from soil erosion and compaction
- follow contours where possible to minimize damage to the remaining growing stock and rehabilitate damaged areas caused by skidding and hauling
- prevent water runoff from flowing directly into a stream
- avoid steep areas of more than 12% slope for roads and 20% for skid trails
- maintain buffers of natural vegetation between the cut areas or establish timber sale landings between the cut areas and surface water

Having trees marked by a forestry professional is an important part of a woodlot management plan. The dot indicates a timber tree to be harvested.

OPTION 3 – COMPENSATING FACTOR

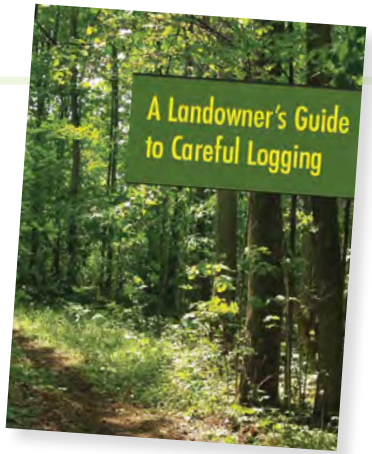
Acquire a greater understanding of the value of your woodlands:

- join a woodlot association or forestry certification group in your area
- take forestry courses, including a tree-marking course

Contact the municipality in which your forest is situated to obtain a copy of the tree-cutting bylaw:

- note that non-compliance could result in a replanting order, fines, etc.
- ensure your forestry professional is aware of pertinent tree-cutting bylaws

A Landowner's Guide to Careful Logging by the Ontario Woodlot Association addresses best practices such as planning harvest operations, including working around water (stream crossings), forest access roads, skid trails, logging operations, as well as post-harvest activities.



22–2. Stand structure (multi-layered canopies)

BACKGROUND

A woodland that has several levels of vegetation with forest floor plants and shrubs under tree species of differing heights and age usually provides opportunities for a variety of income sources. This kind of woodland also presents diverse wildlife habitat opportunities.

A diversity of tree sizes and stages will provide excellent value for future timber harvests and good habitat for a diversity of wildlife species.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

OPTION 1 – ACTION

Manage your woodland stand structure for long-term harvest potential:

- use a management system that creates opportunities for harvesting multiple products over time (e.g., fuel wood, lumber and maple syrup)

OPTION 2 – ACTION

Develop a forest management plan with a registered professional forester (RPF) who pre-evaluates soil and site conditions to determine:

- the most suitable tree species for planting and stocking rates per hectare (e.g., 2,400 trees/ha)
- tree growth
- tree survival
- average time between thinning

Existing farm woodlots brim with potential: for timber, fuel wood, specialty products, income in kind, as well as important environmental and wildlife benefits.

22–3. Timing and impact of forest harvest operations

BACKGROUND

Stick to the goals and objectives of your management plan, minimize environmental damage, maintain species diversity, and retain significant wildlife habitats.

Any damage reduces future economic value and growth rate of the injured trees.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

OPTION 1 – ACTION

Limit the damage caused by harvesting on remaining standing tree stems and wildlife:

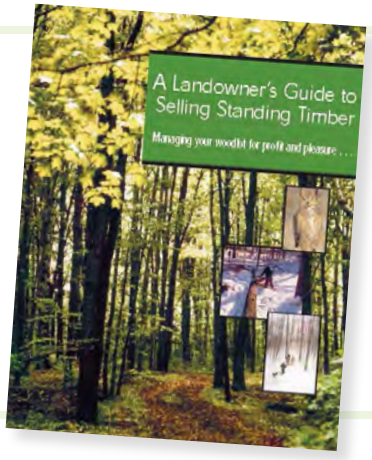
- conduct forest harvests so that damage is limited to 5–10%, and the remaining and acceptable growing stock is free of major damage
- if hiring a forestry company, clearly communicate the need to minimize damage to remaining trees and ensure the contract includes a financial levy for specific trees that are damaged
- specify that no more than two logs will be skidded together at any time and that logs will be winched to the skidder rather than backing the skidder to the log
- harvest with due consideration for wildlife breeding seasons

Reduce root and stem damage as well as soil compaction significantly by hiring a logger who works with horses or smaller equipment rather than wider and larger equipment.

This timber harvest was done during an April thaw – resulting in rutted trails, compacted forest soils, and increased damage to remaining trees.

This fuel wood harvest was done in March when there was snow cover and frozen ground. These conditions resulted in little impact on trails or forest soils and minimal damage to remaining trees.

This publication and other resources, including a directory of forestry services for landowners, are available through the Ontario Woodlot Association's website: www.ontariowoodlot.com



22–4. Woodlot monitoring

BACKGROUND

Woodlot health cannot be thoroughly evaluated without walking through the woodlot to observe conditions. Things like pests, disease, weather damage, or unauthorized use can be missed unless scouting occurs on a regular basis.

Woodlot visits seasonally can also reveal the benefits of a management harvest to remove damaged, deformed, diseased, crowded or lower-value species. You should be able to see the progress of crop trees due to improved growing conditions for them.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

OPTION 1 – ACTION

Create a healthy woodland ready for regular harvest and/or enjoyment by:

- managing for a diversity of tree species and age classes
- checking for forest pests or disease and the presence of invasive species
- scouting seasonally for unauthorized use/recreational activities
- looking for the presence of weather-related effects of drought, ice storms, flooding, wind damage, and fire
- monitoring, and marking/re-marking woodland property lines to reduce the chances of trespassing and illegal harvesting activities

OPTION 2 – ACTION

Inspect your woodlands after each harvest for:

- damage to the remaining forest
- harvest wounds on trees, which can allow the entry of diseases and increase the chance of decay by more than 50% within 20 years of the harvest

Consult the Ontario Woodlot Association for contractors using appropriate equipment for southern Ontario woodlots.

This line fence tree (as evidenced by old fence wire) was marked with paint and plastic tape to show the boundary between two woodlots when the landowner was advised that the neighbour was planning to harvest their woodlot.

BMP publications offer background, options, tips and practical advice for managing on-farm natural resources to meet your goals. Most BMPs in one facet of your operation will complement efforts in other areas.

22–5. Woodlot and livestock access

BACKGROUND

Intensive livestock grazing in woodlands over long periods of time (10–20 years) causes irreparable damage. Grazing destroys tree seedlings, undergrowth vegetation, and wildlife habitat.

Livestock compact the soil and damage tree roots, tree trunks, and foliage by trampling and constant rubbing. Cattle grazing in woodlots eliminate the forest understory (seedlings and shrubs) and potential wildlife habitat.

Note: this section does not apply to silvopasture (an agroforestry practice or system that allows for the integration of trees, forage and livestock through grazing).

This previously grazed woodlot is slowly starting to regenerate undergrowth after the livestock were removed.

This BMP publication offers options for diverting grazing livestock from sensitive areas. It can help you develop a workable grazing management plan for your property to balance production and environmental goals.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

OPTION 1 – ACTION

Establish a grazing management plan (e.g., Rotational Grazing Management Plan) that eliminates the need for livestock access and/or outdoor confinement areas from your woodlot.

If elimination of livestock access is not possible, restrict cattle access to less than 10% of the whole woodlot or permit access to 20% or less of the outer edge of the woodlot.

Other actions include:

- remove livestock from woodlots when the soil is thawing
- discourage cattle from grazing in swampy areas by providing alternative shade
- plant shade trees in pastures and fence the woodlands to restrict access
- place water, mineral and feed well away from woodland areas
- install tree guards and fencing that offer adequate protection for trees from livestock

OPTION 2 – COMPENSATING FACTOR

If shelter is unavailable, create designated shelter areas for livestock in forested situations:

- plant marginal lands to conifers and/or hardwoods
- plant treed shelter bands around the pasture lands
- delay livestock access until the trees are well-established at 2 m (5 ft) or more
- control the grazing density to reduce damage

Be aware of the sacrifices caused by provision of shelter:

- compaction of forest soils
- lost opportunities to create a forest condition, harvest forest products and grow mature trees with merchantable value

22-6. Habitat management in and around woodlots

BACKGROUND

Manage woodlots to balance the needs of wildlife and woodlot operations. Incorporate wildlife habitats into your woodland management plan to ensure that your woodlot provides the necessary food, shelter and water for wildlife survival.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

OPTION 1 – ACTION

Incorporate wildlife objectives in your forest management plan. This will ensure your forest is managed with diversity in mind. Consider the following:

- consult a professional who can suggest measures to support numerous wildlife and plant species
- incorporate a large variety of habitat features such as vernal pools, woodland ponds, wetlands, downed woody debris, mast-producing trees and cavity trees, as well as woodland stream edges and woodland springs
- use logging access roads and skidding trails for multi-purpose activities such as hiking and recreational trails

Do not drastically alter the plant and animal habitats of species that are protected by legislation such as the federal Species at Risk Act and the provincial Endangered Species Act.

OPTION 2 – ACTION

The Ontario Habitat and Biodiversity Assessment Tool is a free online tool that allows you to understand local natural species and habitats, and provides recommendations to improve habitats and biodiversity.

A healthy woodlot will provide support for numerous species of wildlife, like this red-tailed hawk nesting in a maple woodlot.

22-7. Shelterbelts and farmstead plantings

BACKGROUND

Farmsteads and structures (barns) with sufficient shelterbelts and windbreaks offer energy savings, crop protection, odour control, decreased snow buildup and habitat for diverse species.

Farmstead shelterbelts will reduce wind speed near farm buildings – sheltering livestock and homes from storms and cold winds, while also providing habitat for wildlife such as songbirds.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

OPTION 1 – ACTION

When creating efficient farmstead plantings and habitats, use native species where possible:

- plan for shaded areas on the south and west sides of buildings or around livestock facilities for odour control
- plant shelterbelts (3–6 rows) to protect the farmstead from prevailing winds and reduce energy costs
    - they also reduce wind chill in winter, lower snow-removal costs, and increase shade in summer
- plant in sequence: 1) shelterbelts; 2) shade trees and shrubs; 3) ground-covering plants and the other smaller perennials
- plant multi-row field windbreaks when possible, or a single row on 50–80% of crop field sites with a mixture of native species (hardwoods, conifers and shrubs) to provide wind erosion protection
- ensure invasive and/or non-native species such as Norway maple or garlic mustard do not escape into fencerows and wooded areas
- attract feeding birds by choosing wildlife friendly shrubs like red osier dogwood, elderberry, highbush cranberry, nannyberry, serviceberry, pin cherry and choke cherry etc.
- plant at an appropriate distance around the house to allow for unhindered growth and prevent conflicts with the foundation and walls
- plant evergreen trees and hardwoods as yard trees along with shrubs to offer wind protection, cover and food for wildlife

OPTION 2 – ACTION

The Ontario Habitat and Biodiversity Assessment Tool is a free online tool that allows you to understand local natural species and habitats, and provides recommendations to improve habitats and biodiversity.

WHOLE FARM HABITAT, BIODIVERSITY AND SPECIES AT RISK

22-8. Wildlife habitat planning (whole farm)

BACKGROUND

Wildlife habitats can be found in many areas of the farm in addition to woodlots and water features (see worksheet 21) such as grasslands, windbreaks, ditches and farmstead gardens. These habitats support a diversity of species including birds, mammals, amphibians and pollinators. Balancing the needs of wildlife and farm operations can enhance your overall farm health by improving ecosystem function, providing natural pest control and supporting pollination.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

OPTION 1 – ACTION

Support wildlife habitat on the farm by:

- learning about wildlife habitat and what features make them more supportive of wildlife
- identifying the areas on your farm that support wildlife habitat
- ensuring there is a variety of habitats available to promote biodiversity
- enhancing existing habitats to better include sources of food, water or shelter for wildlife
- expanding wildlife habitat, creating new habitats, or rehabilitating degraded habitats
- identifying the needs of wildlife that inhabit your farm and taking them into consideration when making farming decisions (e.g., delayed grassland harvesting to avoid harm during nesting season, minimize mowing in ditches and lawns, spring tillage to leave spent grain available to wildlife though the winter)

OPTION 2 – ACTION

The Ontario Habitat and Biodiversity Assessment Tool is a free online tool that allows you to understand local natural species and habitats, and provides recommendations to improve habitats and biodiversity.

22-9. Wildlife habitats in buffers

BACKGROUND

Well-planned buffer strips can be excellent wildlife corridors. Buffers adjacent to watercourses trap sediments (greater buffer width is better), provide shade (water temperature regulator), create nesting for waterfowl, help prevent erosion, increase the soil's water-holding capacity, and improve water quality.

Next to cropland, buffers provide habitat for pollinating insects (valuable for crop production), birds and mammals, and create food and shelter.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

OPTION 1 – ACTION

Establish extensive or medium-sized buffers beside wet areas and farm fields for a variety of functions:

- implement a wide, treed buffer strip wherever feasible – multiple tree rows are more effective than single rows
- plant rapidly growing tree species that offer shade more quickly
- select a diversity of native species for the soil type and moisture conditions

Remember to protect buffer areas when doing field operations (such as pesticide or nutrient application) especially beside surface water.

OPTION 2 – ACTION

The Ontario Habitat and Biodiversity Assessment Tool is a free online tool that allows you to understand local natural species and habitats, and provides recommendations to improve habitats and biodiversity.

The extensive buffers between the river and farm fields provide a range of wildlife habitat, and also filter surface water before it reaches the river.

This BMP book explains how to establish, maintain, and improve buffer strips.

22-10. Resources for wildlife and pollinators

BACKGROUND

Encourage birds and pollinators by building habitat structures in strategic locations.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

OPTION 1 – ACTION

Increase bird and pollinator habitat around the farmstead:

- strategically place perches and nest boxes for bats and cavity-nesting birds such as bluebirds, tree swallows and owls, which consume large quantities of insects and mice
- create water sources that are self-sustaining (e.g., garden or farm pond available for songbirds and other species)
- place a pond near the farmstead wherever feasible
- prevent domestic dogs and cats from killing songbirds and small beneficial mammals
- repair small cracks and openings with caulking, metal screening, or flashing to exclude wildlife from buildings
- keep the farmstead area free of food and feed waste materials that might be attractive to wildlife
- implement pollinator friendly practices, such as planting native plant species, minimizing mowing, and placing bee houses

Encourage farmstead wildlife, birds and pollinators by applying integrated pest management techniques not only to your fields, but to your lawn and garden areas as well.

OPTION 2 – ACTION

The Ontario Habitat and Biodiversity Assessment Tool is a free online tool that allows you to understand local natural species and habitats, and provides recommendations to improve habitats and biodiversity.

A nest box placed away from buildings will draw smaller wildlife and help to avoid conflict with farming activities.

◀ **Healthy fish and wildlife habitat on rural property has many benefits, and BMPs for improving habitat are compatible with cropland BMPs. This publication has many practical suggestions for farmlands, woodlands, wetlands and other transitional areas, and aquatic areas. Reducing conflict with wildlife is also addressed.**

◀ **This introduction to Integrated Pest Management (IPM) explains the basics, including pest monitoring, identification, and thresholds. Control measures, including site and crop options, biological control, crop rotation, pest removal, trap crops, and pesticide timing and application, are described.**

22-11. Habitat connectedness

BACKGROUND

Wildlife tend to travel along farm field edges (fencerows), ditches, woodlands and wetlands. They require protected corridors of permanent vegetation of varying widths. Without these corridors, animals are forced to travel unprotected between large natural areas or remain isolated within smaller ones. Smaller natural areas increase the chances for disease, predation and potential for wildlife conflicts.

Features such as forested ravines, treed fencerows, shelterbelts windbreaks, buffer strips, and treed farm lanes are corridors that permit wildlife to move with protection.

Wildlife habitat connections are an opportunity to increase the biodiversity on your farm and better support wildlife species.

Wildlife such as these wild turkeys use treed fencerows for cover while moving from one woodlot to another.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

OPTION 1 – ACTION

Create corridors with a range of diversified habitats for wildlife through a network of windbreaks and buffer strips:

- interconnect existing corridors of natural areas, fencerows, windbreaks or buffers to woodlands
- ensure that connected corridors contain native vegetation that is similar to the areas being connected
- If establishing tree cover, practise effective weed control particularly in the first year, and use tree guards where needed to help trees and shrubs establish and grow quickly
- leave rock piles alone or create them by stone picking and use them for snakes to help control rodents and other farm pests
- create brush piles from tree tops and fallen logs of woodlot harvest materials for additional habitat
- install nesting platforms and leave 4–6 snag trees per hectare (10–15 per ac) to attract birds of prey
- create openings or plant nut trees (e.g., beech, oak, hickory) and catkin-producing trees (e.g., birch) in upland areas

Don't forget to water new plantings in dry weather, particularly in the first year of establishment.

Monitor corridors for invasive species such as buckthorn, Norway maple and garlic mustard.

OPTION 2 – ACTION

The Ontario Habitat and Biodiversity Assessment Tool is a free online tool that allows you to understand local natural species and habitats, and provides recommendations to improve habitats and biodiversity.

22-12. Wildlife damage mitigation

BACKGROUND

Certain wildlife species may turn to crops, livestock or farmstead buildings to meet their needs. They can cause direct losses in yields by consumption, but also indirect losses by spreading disease (e.g., avian influenza, rabies) and destroying habitat.

These Great Pyrenees guard dog pups are part of a plan to control death loss from coyotes on a commercial sheep farm.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

OPTION 1 – ACTION

Prepare for possible wildlife damages and losses:

- create a plan to reduce conflict with wildlife by consulting with a biologist
- update and fine–tune the plan on a regular basis
- maintain an up-to-date list of qualified professionals for protection of property from wildlife (e.g., trap/relocate, harass or kill)

Ensure provincial and federal species at risk protections are understood and where required the correct permits are obtained to remove or kill wildlife in protection of property, or when modifying on-farm structures that may house species at risk.

OPTION 2 – ACTION

Before undertaking direct measures (i.e., trap/relocate or kill) in protection of property from wildlife, take the following important steps:

- implement preventative measures (e.g., deterring geese from crops by allowing grassed buffers to grow tall) prior to problems developing
- assess and remove, when possible, sources of food and habitat that attract wildlife where they are not wanted.

OPTION 3 – ACTION

After creating a plan to prevent conflicts with wildlife, take these steps towards actively resolving the particular issue:

- verify the problem – try to find the animal itself by looking for dens, burrows, roosting areas, tracks, droppings, evidence of feeding, tooth/claw marks, and patterns of pecking
- determine the scope of the problem, assess how much the damage is costing, determine the cost of a preventative measure, and assess the potential for the problem to worsen, lessen or disappear
- implement preventative measures – for example encourage needed predators, use irritants (sprays, lights, sound), fix entry holes into buildings, use scare and lure crop techniques (sometimes only effective in the short term), and fencing
- evaluate the management techniques in place, and if preventative measures don't work, use non-lethal and lethal control measures that adhere to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, Species at Risk Act, Endangered Species Act, and Migratory Birds Convention Act

Discouraging wildlife where it is not wanted requires frequent assessment and adaptation of mitigation measures. Review and update your plan to prevent conflicts with wildlife regularly – preferably every two years.

Ensure plant and animal habitats and species protected by federal and provincial species at risk legislation are not unwittingly destroyed. Use hunting and trapping in accordance with the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act and the Migratory Birds Convention Act.

Before taking any action, call the Ministry of Natural Resources to ensure your plans are legal.

Interactions among wildlife species are complex. For example, if lambs are lost to coyotes and all coyotes are subsequently killed, rodent problems such as groundhogs in crop fields may become a problem. Often, new coyotes will re-colonize areas left vacant when others are removed.

22-13. Species at risk awareness

BACKGROUND

Protecting and recovering species at risk and their habitat is a key part of conserving Ontario's biodiversity. Species at risk are protected by both Federal and Provincial legislation so it is important to be aware of which species may frequent or inhabit your farm.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

OPTION 1 – ACTION

Determine which species at risk may be on your farm based on which areas of the province they inhabit, and which habitats (of those that exist on your farm) support these species. Resources could include species lists, distribution maps, and other guidance material provided by the Ministry of Natural Resources. Online citizen science forums such as **iNaturalist** could show you which species at risk have been sighted in your area.

Once you become more familiar with which species at risk are located within your area of the province and which habitats on your farm could support them, conduct your own observations on farm and record any sightings.

In the case of species at risk, a formal **species at risk survey** can be completed.

Learn more about the lifecycle and habitat needs of any species at risk that are observed or have a high likelihood of frequenting or inhabiting your farm (e.g., nesting habits) and incorporate these needs into farming practices.

OPTION 2 – ACTION

The Ontario Habitat and Biodiversity Assessment Tool is a free online tool that allows you to understand local natural species and habitats, and provides recommendations to improve habitats and biodiversity.

22-14. Species at risk protection

BACKGROUND

There are many practices on your farm that can support or protect species at risk. There may also be activities you can modify to reduce harm to species at risk or their habitat.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

OPTION 1 – ACTION

Become more aware of practices you can take, or may already be doing, that promote species at risk by finding information on the species and their habitats.

OPTION 2 – ACTION

Learn about and consider a voluntary conservation agreement or easement that protects natural habitats and restrict certain activities on your property. These agreements can help in conserving species at risk and biodiversity well into the future.

OPTION 3 – ACTION

The Ontario Habitat and Biodiversity Assessment Tool is a free online tool that allows you to understand local natural species and habitats, and provides recommendations to improve habitats and biodiversity.

22-15. Invasive species awareness

BACKGROUND

Most invasive plants and insects have a very detrimental effect on woodlands. Some invasive plants, if allowed to establish and proliferate, will form a dense canopy that does not permit other woodland plants and trees to establish.

The result is very little regeneration of the desired woodland trees and decreased biodiversity. Over time as the trees mature and die or are harvested, there will be very few desirable trees to replace them.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

OPTION 1 – ACTION

Be knowledgeable about invasive woodland plant species:

- learn how to identify them
- become knowledgeable about methods to control them or know who to contact for recommendations (e.g., **Invasive Species Centre**)
- plant native rather than horticultural varieties of trees and shrubs when practical
- check the farm woodlands and wildlife habitat areas (fencerows, stream corridors etc.) preferably once a year or at least every three years, to determine if invasive species are present (e.g., Buckthorn/garlic mustard)

The emerald ash borer is an invasive insect species that was first found in North America in June 2002 and is spreading throughout Ontario.

Researchers, regulators and urban foresters are in a race to halt the spread of the insect long enough to develop effective control measures to save native ash trees, an important hardwood species in North America.

Emerald ash borer larvae feed on the tree beneath the bark, leaving meandering tunnels that eventually girdle the tree and kill it.

22-16. Invasive species presence and control (whole farm)

BACKGROUND

Invasive species are plants, animals and micro-organisms that, when introduced outside of their natural environment, out-compete native species. These species can have harmful impacts to the natural environment, economy, farming operations, and society.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

OPTION 1 – ACTION

Regularly inspect your farm property and surrounding areas for the presence of invasive species. Consult with resources from the Ministry of Natural Resources to learn about how to identify invasive species.

OPTION 2 – ACTION

If you find invasive plants on your farm you may be able to eradicate them or manage them so they don't spread. Depending on the species, you may need to use manual, mechanical, biological or cultural control practices.

Contact the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks for more information or to seek necessary licenses and permits for herbicide use.

OPTION 3 – ACTION

Prevent introduction and establishment of invasive species by thoroughly cleaning equipment as it enters your farm or when moving between fields where invasive species are noted.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

ONTARIO MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND AGRIBUSINESS (OMAFA)

- Agricultural Information Contact Centre (AICC)
  Toll free: 1-877-424-1300 | e-mail: ag.info.omafa@ontario.ca

  Find most of the resources listed below at www.ontario.ca

Factsheets

- Strategies for establishing and using windbreaks successfully
- Trees on farms

Best Management Practices Series

- Fish and Wildlife Habitat Management
- Buffer Strips
- Establishing Tree Cover
- Agroforestry Series Volume 1 – Woodlot Management
- Agroforestry Series Volume 2 – Establishing Tree Cover
- Streamside Grazing
- Integrated Pest Management

ONTARIO MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

- Natural Resources Information Centre
- Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP)
  - Toll free: 1-855-866-3847 | e-mail: MFTIP@ontario.ca

Publications

- A Silvicultural Guide: Southern Ontario
- A Land Manager's Guide to Conservation Habitat for Forest Birds in Southern Ontario, 2011
- Invasive Species Action Plans
- A Guide to Stewardship Planning for Natural Areas
- Significant Wildlife Habitat Technical Guide
- Afforestation Guide for Southern Ontario

ONTARIO MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT, CONSERVATION AND PARKS

- Species at Risk Information for Ontario
- Prevent Conflicts with Wildlife
- Species at Risk Surveys
- Tree Marking

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE CANADA

- Species at Risk

FOR MORE INFORMATION, *continued*

OTHER RESOURCES

- Habitat and Biodiversity Assessment Tool
- Carolinian Canada
- Conservation Land Tax Incentive Program
  - Toll free: 1-800-268-8959
- Eastern Ontario Model Forest
  - Find information on workshops, programs and publications
- Invasive Species Centre
- Ontario Professional Foresters Association
  - Find forestry practitioners licensed to practice professional forestry in Ontario
- Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters
  - Information and publications about woodlots and wildlife
- Ontario Nature

OTHER RESOURCES, *continued*

- Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association
- Ontario Woodlot Association
  - A Landowner's Guide to Careful Logging
  - Find workshop dates, programs and various publications, including the Forest Services Directory
- The Canadian Forest Service
- Conservation Authorities
  - Contact your local Conservation Authority for programs to help with implementing your Environmental Farm Plan
- Ducks Unlimited Canada
  - Find information on workshops, programs and publications
- LandOwner Resource Centre