

Vermont Monitoring Cooperative  
PROCEDURE FOR MONITORING BUD DEVELOPMENT

OBJECTIVE: To determine the timing of key bud development stages on an annual basis.

METHODS:

At the present time, bud development stages have been described for sugar maple, yellow birch and American beech (Table 1). While it is possible to apply these stages to other species, some adjustments may need to be made.

Select at least 5 dominant or codominant trees and 5 saplings of each species at each site. Tag them so that re-visits can be made using the same trees each time. It is also helpful to view the trees from the same location, so a marker at the viewing site may also be needed.

A high powered spotting scope (45X) is needed to view buds at the upper and lower canopy of trees. If purchasing a scope, it is recommended that you buy one with a 45 degree eyepiece for ease of viewing. Regeneration can be viewed without a scope if close to the ground.

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