

TRENDS IN FOREST CONDITION

Sugar Maple Health Statewide

Trends in sugar maple health from survey sites across the state (North American Maple Project plots) indicate stable conditions despite assaults from defoliating insects. Over 70% of sugar maple trees on survey plots remained healthy (less than 0.6) and mortality was low (less than 0.1) while defoliation remained stable/ there was a continued trend in thinner foliage (higher foliage transparency) (Figure 4). Defoliation from forest tent caterpillar/ spruce spanworm and maple leaf cutter caused significant defoliation at nearly half of these sites/ and 30% of trees statewide experienced moderate to heavy defoliation (Figure 5). Some refoliation was observed. Improved crown vigor indicated a slight recovery from previous drought years.

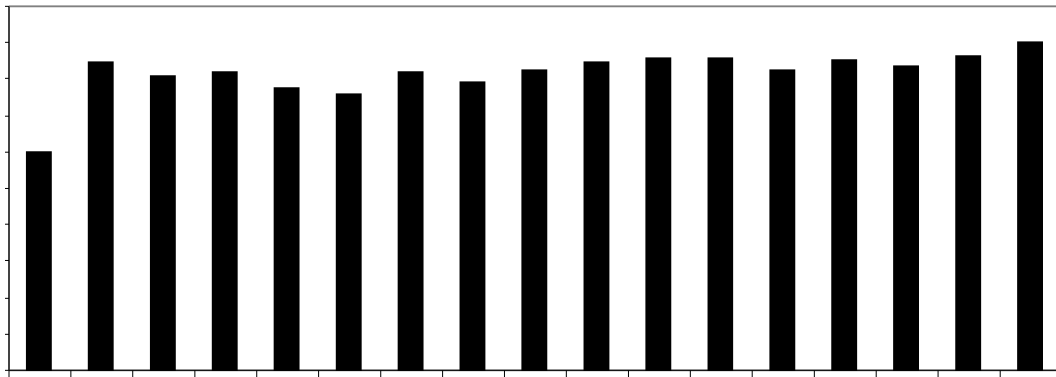
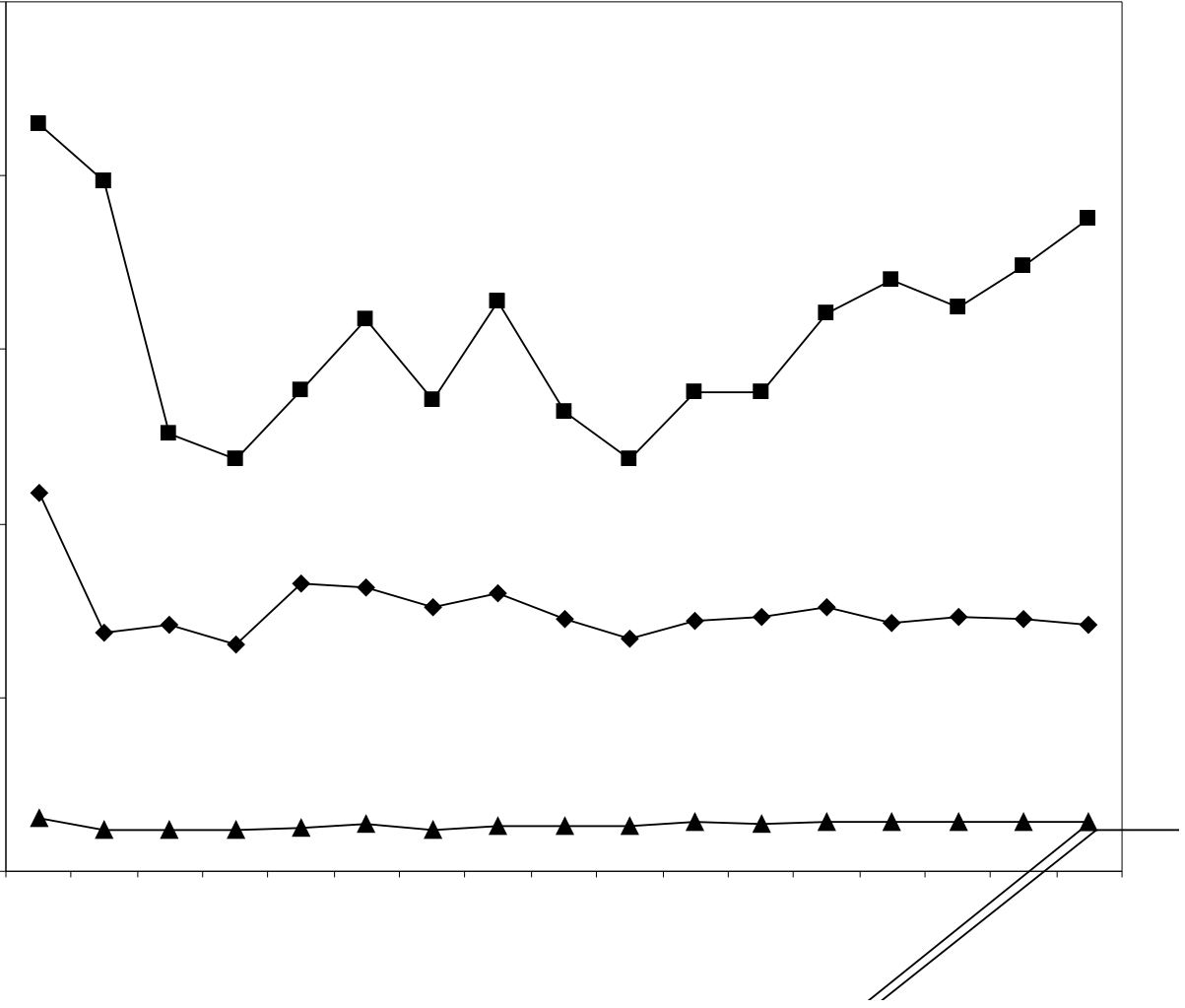
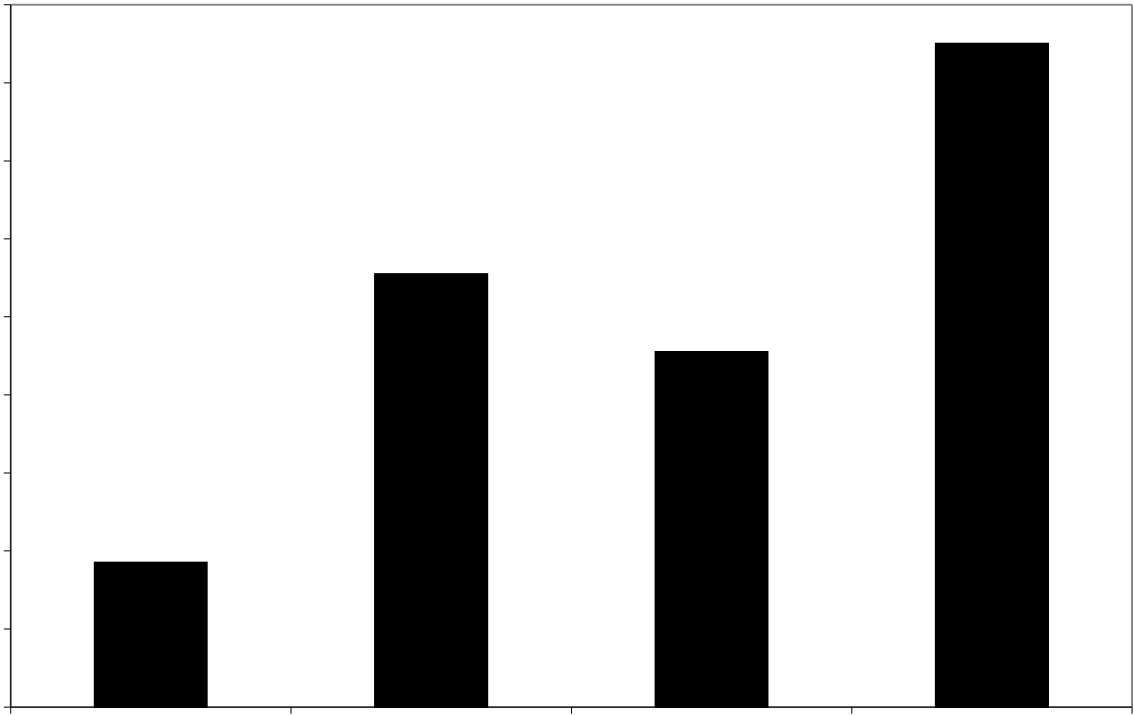


Figure 4. Percent of overstory sugar maple trees healthy (less than 0.6) on 50 North American Maple Project plots in Vermont, 2008.





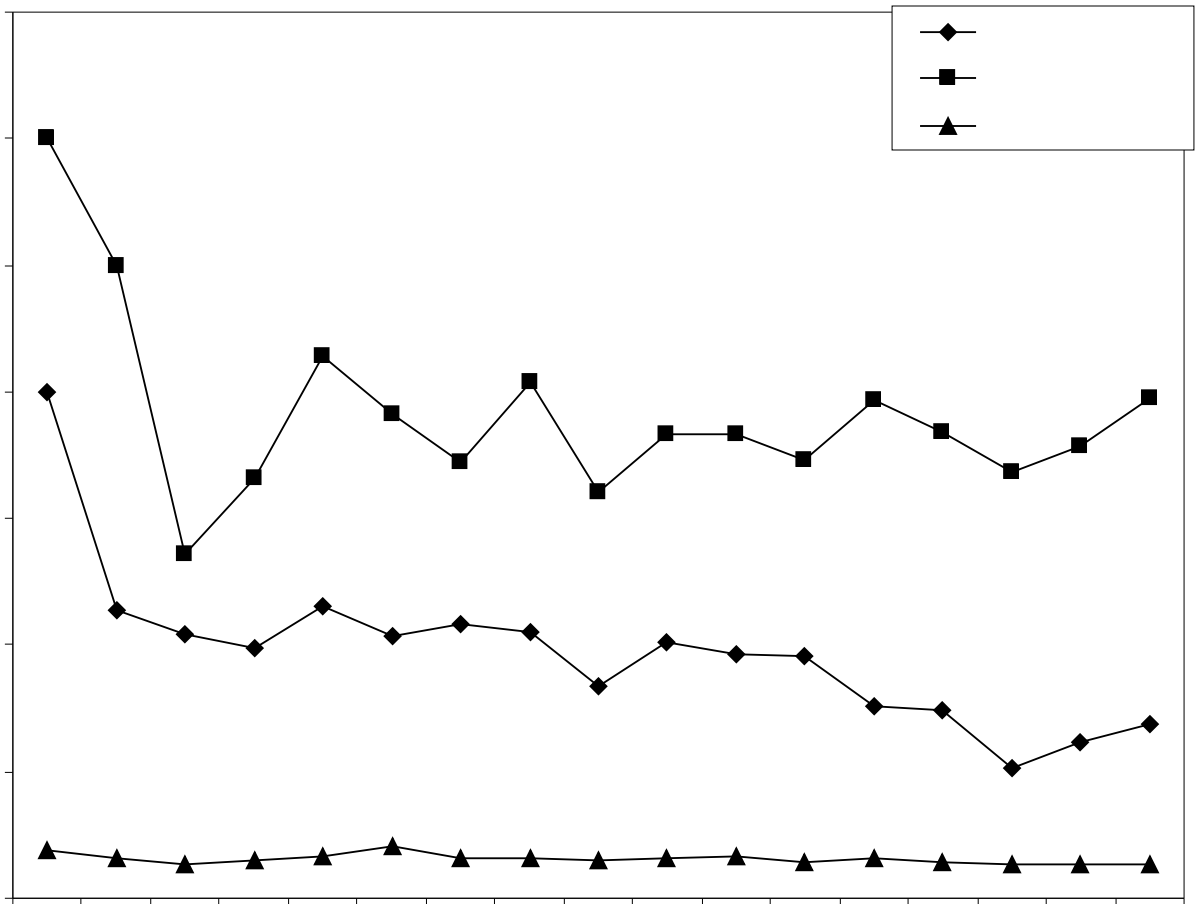
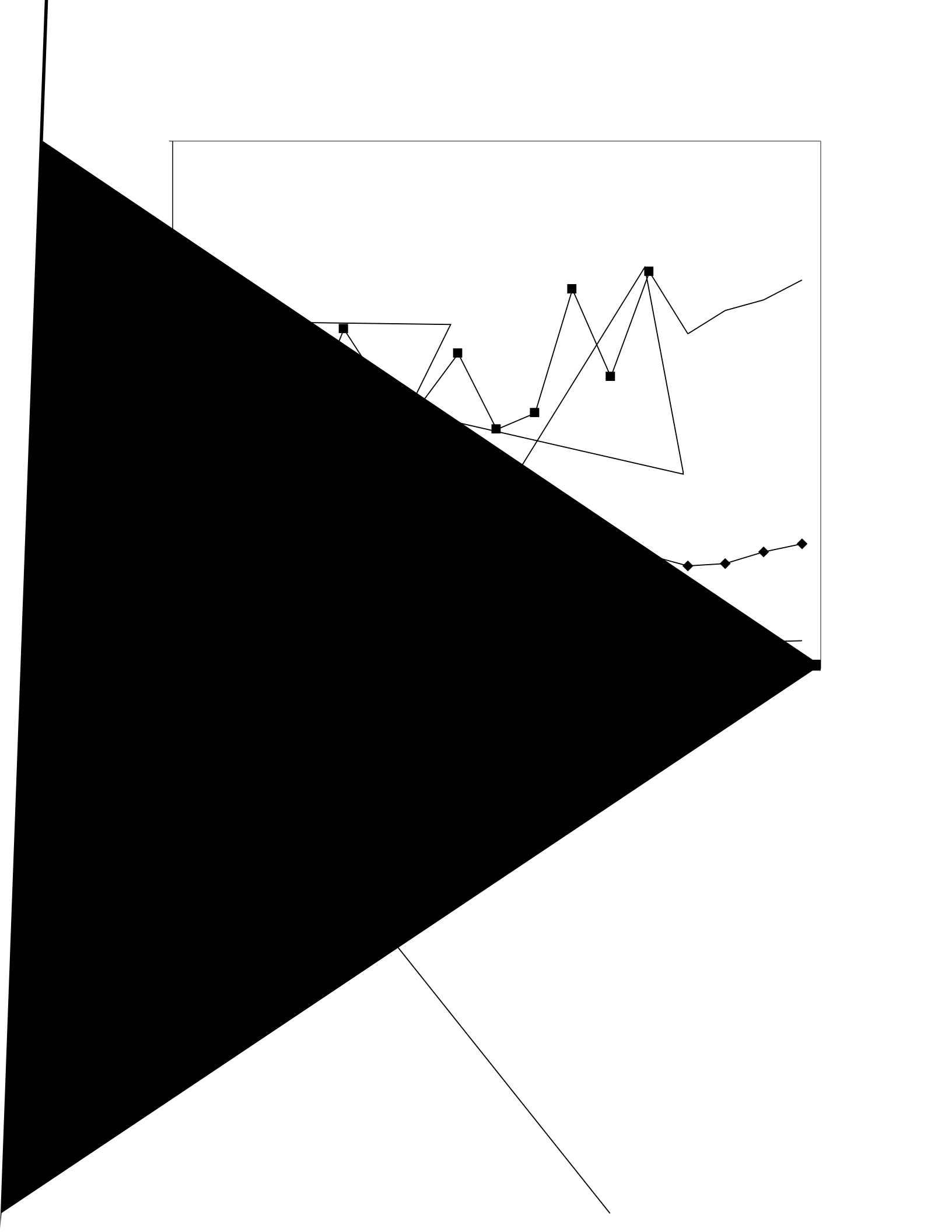
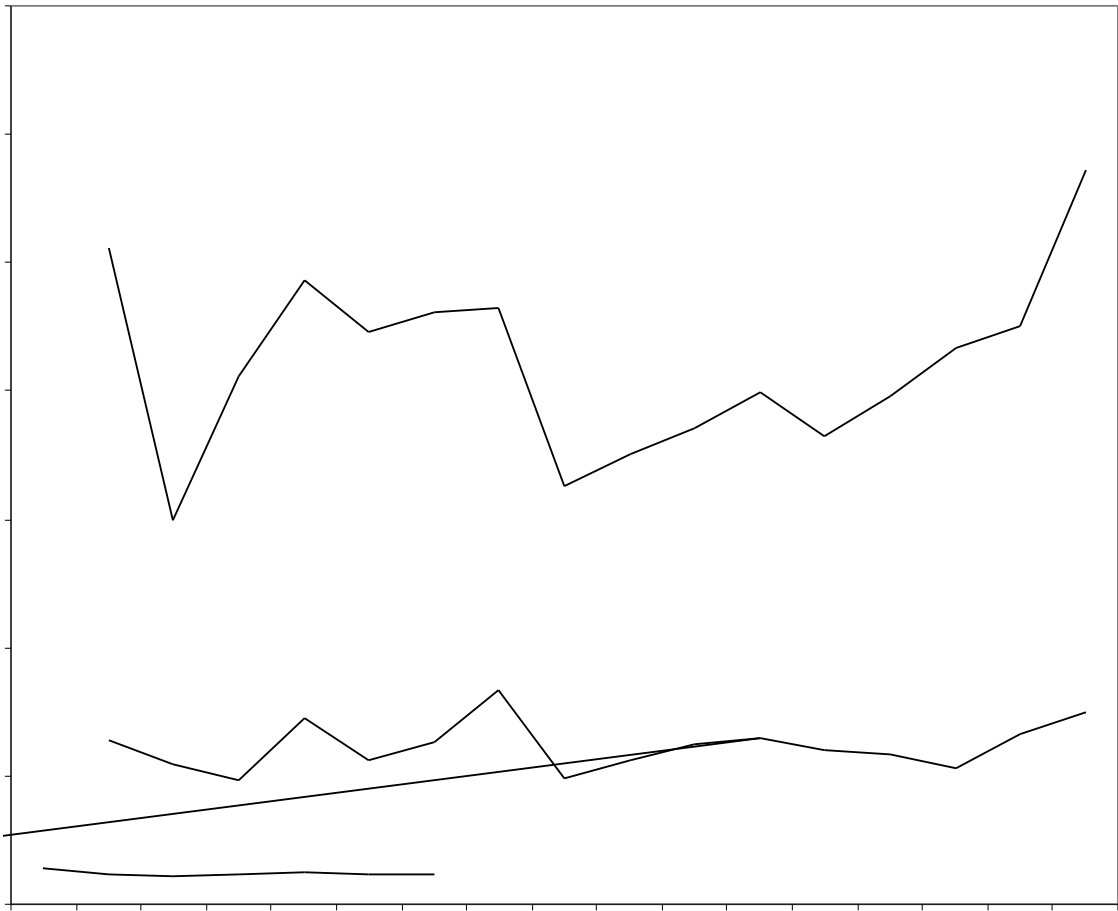


Figure 1. Trend in overstory red maple condition as measured by average dieback/ foliage transparency and vigor on 50 North American maple forest plots in Vermont from 1980 to 2008.





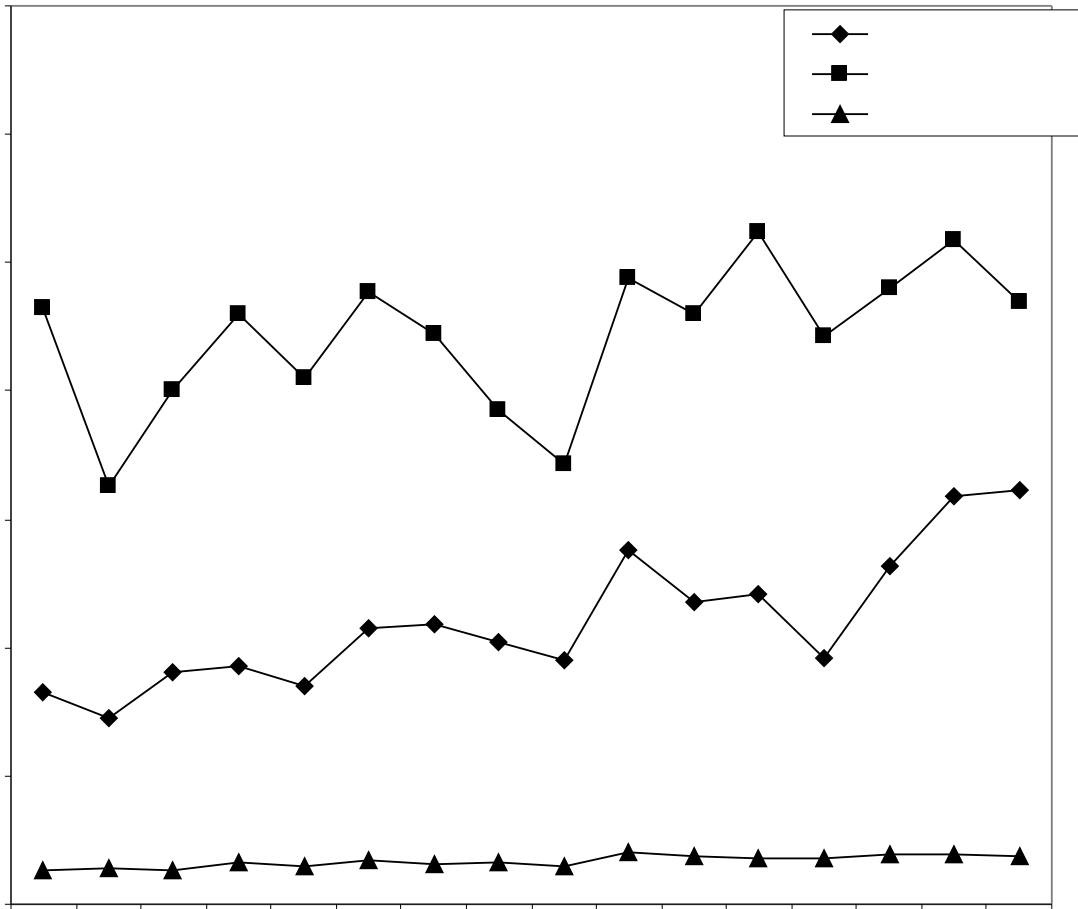


Figure 3: Trend in overstory % each condition as measured by average dieback/ foliage

