



**Michigan Technical Note**  
**USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service**

**FORESTRY #23**

**Subject: SITE INDEX CLASSES FOR MICHIGAN TREES**

**Date: January, 2010**

Site index, a measure of a site's quality, or productivity, is the average total height of dominant and co-dominant trees in pure, even-aged stands at 50 years of age. Site index values are commonly found in Forestland Productivity Reports of the Soil Survey. They can also be easily determined in the field by sampling trees and comparing them to established site index curves. See Huebschmann and Martin, 1996, for sampling techniques.

**SITE INDEX CLASSES**

<b>Forest Type or Species</b>	<b>1 High</b>	<b>2 Med. high</b>	<b>3 Medium</b>	<b>4 Med. Low</b>	<b>5 Low</b>
Ash, green and white	≥ 71	70-61	60-51	50-41	≤ 40
Aspen, quaking and bigtooth	≥ 76	75-66	65-56	55-46	≤ 45
Fir, balsam	≥ 66	65-58	57-50	49-41	≤ 40
Basswood, American	≥ 71	70-61	60-51	50-41	≤ 40
Birch, paper	≥ 71	70-61	60-51	50-41	≤ 40
Birch, yellow	≥ 66	65-58	57-50	49-41	≤ 40
Cottonwood, eastern	≥ 106	105-96	95-86	85-76	≤ 75
Maple, red	≥ 71	70-61	60-51	50-41	≤ 40
Maple, silver	≥ 96	95-86	85-76	75-66	≤ 65
Maple, sugar	≥ 66	65-58	57-50	49-41	≤ 40
Oak, northern red (and other upland oaks)	≥ 71	70-61	60-51	50-41	≤ 40
Pine, eastern white	≥ 66	65-58	57-50	49-41	≤ 40
Pine, jack	≥ 71	70-61	60-51	50-41	≤ 40
Pine, red	≥ 66	65-58	57-50	49-41	≤ 40
Spruce, black	≥ 51	50-39	38-27	26-16	≤ 15
Spruce, white	≥ 66	65-58	57-50	49-41	≤ 40
Tamarack	≥ 61	60-53	52-45	44-36	≤ 35
White cedar, northern	≥ 51	50-39	38-27	26-16	≤ 15

This information is based on soil-site indices collected by NRCS on Soil Series throughout Michigan and data in the National Registry of Site Index Curves in the USDA-NRCS National Forestry Manual Part 537-4 - Exhibits.

**REFERENCES**

Huebschmann, Micheal and Jeff Martin. 1996. Estimating and Interpreting Site Index. University of Wisconsin Extension Bulletin G3361. <http://basineducation.uwex.edu/woodland/OWW/Pubs/UWEX/G3361.pdf>

Society of American Foresters. 1984. Forestry Handbook. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Pub. No. SAF 84-01. Wenger, Karl F (editor). John Wiley & Sons, New York, NY.

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