



LEGEND

Explanation of Map Symbols	
Capability Class	Percentage of map unit occupied by each class
Limiting subclasses	Limiting subclasses
Indicator tree species	Indicator tree species

Capability Classes	
In this classification all mineral and organic soils are grouped into one of seven classes based upon their inherent ability to grow commercial timber. The best lands for commercial tree growth will be found in Class 1 and those in Class 7 cannot be expected to yield timber in commercial quantities, these represent the extremes.	
Some of the important factors on which the classification is based are:	
- All known or inferred information about the unit including soil, soil profile, depth, moisture, fertility, landform, climate and vegetation as of 1970.	
- Associated with each capability class is a productivity range based on the mean annual increment of the best species or group of species adapted to the site at or near rotation age. Productivity classes are expressed in gross merchantable cubic metre volume to a minimum diameter of ten centimetres. Thinnings, bark, and branch wood are not included. The productivity as expressed is that of "normal", i.e., fully stocked stands. It may be assumed that only good management would have produced stands of this nature.	
- The following are not considered: location, access, distance to markets, size of units, ownership, present state or special crops such as Christmas trees.	
The classes are based on the natural state of the land without improvements such as fertilization, drainage or amelioration practices. It is realized that with improved forest management the productivity may change, to the extent that the limitations shown in the symbol may be altered, class changes may also take place. However, significant changes will only be achieved through costly and continuing practices.	
CLASS 1 - LANDS HAVING NO IMPORTANT LIMITATIONS TO THE GROWTH OF COMMERCIAL FORESTS	
Because of unsuitable climate, no Class 1 lands will be found	
CLASS 2 - LANDS HAVING SLIGHT LIMITATIONS TO THE GROWTH OF COMMERCIAL FORESTS	
Soils are deep, well-drained to imperfectly drained, of medium to fine texture and have good water-holding capacity. The most common limitation is adverse climate. Productivity will usually be from 6.4 to 7.7 cubic metres per hectare per year.	
CLASS 3 - LANDS HAVING MODERATE LIMITATIONS TO THE GROWTH OF COMMERCIAL FORESTS	
Soils may be deep to somewhat shallow, well to imperfectly drained, of medium to fine texture with moderate to good water-holding capacity. The most common limitations are moderate deficiency or excess of soil moisture. Productivity will usually be from 5.0 to 6.3 cubic metres per hectare per year.	
CLASS 4 - LANDS HAVING MODERATELY SEVERE LIMITATIONS TO THE GROWTH OF COMMERCIAL FORESTS	
Soils may vary from deep to moderately shallow, from coarse through fine texture, from good to poor moisture holding capacity, from good to poor structure and from good to low natural fertility. The most common limitation is moisture deficiency. Productivity will usually be from 3.6 to 4.9 cubic metres per hectare per year.	
CLASS 5 - LANDS HAVING SEVERE LIMITATIONS TO THE GROWTH OF COMMERCIAL FORESTS	
Soils are frequently shallow to bedrock, stony, rapidly to poorly drained of coarse or fine texture, may have poor moisture holding capacity and be low in natural fertility. The most common limitations (often in combination) are: moisture deficiency or excess, shallowness to bedrock, and adverse climate. Productivity will usually be from 2.2 to 3.5 cubic metres per hectare per year.	
CLASS 6 - LANDS HAVING SEVERE LIMITATIONS TO THE GROWTH OF COMMERCIAL FORESTS	
Soils are frequently shallow, stony, excessively drained, of coarse texture and low in fertility. The most common limitations (frequently in combination) are: shallowness to bedrock, and adverse climate. Productivity will usually be from 0.8 to 2.1 cubic metres per hectare per year.	
CLASS 7 - LANDS HAVING SEVERE LIMITATIONS WHICH PRECLUDE THE GROWTH OF COMMERCIAL FORESTS	
Soils are usually extremely shallow to bedrock, subject to regular flooding, or poorly drained. The most common limitations are: shallowness to bedrock, excessive soil moisture, frequent inundation, and extremes of climate. Productivity will usually be less than 0.7 cubic metres per hectare per year.	

Limiting Subclasses	
A - drought or aridity caused by aspect, landform position or exposure	
C - adverse climate - usually alpine or tundra-like areas, or valley bottoms with cold air drainage	
E - actively eroding soils	
H - low air and soil temperatures, short growing season - usually used in high elevation subalpine forests	
I - inundation (flooding)	
M - soil moisture deficiency (low moisture holding capacity)	
R - rooting depth restricted by bedrock	
S - combination of soil factors	
W - soil moisture excess	

Species	
aif - alpine fir	bpo - balsam poplar
ip - lodgepole pine	bs - black spruce
ta - trembling aspen	ws - white spruce

Note	
This map was prepared in 1970 under the Canada Land Inventory program, before the Northwest Coal Study. Current soils and climate information was not used in the preparation of this map. If desired, this map could be updated using current information.	

References	
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Credits	
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