

## FORESTRY Terms

**Annual**: A plant that completes its entire life cycle in a single growing season. Tomatoes, daisies, and peas are examples of annuals.

**Annual ring**: The ring that can be seen in a cross-section of a tree. These rings show the age of the tree.

**Bark**: The outer layer of the trunk and branches that helps protect the tree from injury or disease.

**Biennial**: A plant that lives for two growing seasons, producing only the leaves during the first season and the flowers and seeds during the second.

**Cambium**: The thin layer of cells between the phloem and the xylem that makes the trunk, branches, and roots of a tree grow thicker.

**Canopy**: The uppermost layer of most forests. The branches and leaves of the tallest trees form the canopy.

**Conifer**: A plant that bears its seed in cones.

**Crown**: The top branches of a tree.

**DBH (diameter at breast height)**: Measurement used to determine the diameter at a tree. DBH is typically measured at 4  $\frac{1}{2}$  feet from the ground.

**Deciduous**: Trees that lose all of their leaves each year. Maples, ashes, oaks, and dogwoods are examples of deciduous trees.

**Dendrology**: The study of trees.

**Dendrochronology**: The study and dating of growth rings in trees.

**Evergreen**: Trees that do not lose all of their leaves each year.

**Food Chain**: The transfer of food energy from organisms in one nutritional stage to those in another.

**Forest Floor:** The layer of decomposing material that covers the soil in a forest.

**Forestry:** The science of managing forests.

**Glade:** An open space in a forest.

**Habitat:** The native environment of an animal or plant. The kind of place that is natural for an animal or a plant.

**Hardwoods:** Broad-leaved trees.

**Heartwood:** Sapwood that has become filled with resin-like material and no longer transports water and minerals. Also called *old xylem*.

**Natural Resource:** Raw materials supplied by the Earth and its systems.

**Perennials:** Plants that live for many seasons. Trees are perennials.

**Phloem:** A pipeline of cells that transports the sugars (carbohydrates) produced by the leaves to the rest of the tree. It is also called the *inner bark*.

**Photosynthesis:** The formation of carbohydrates in the chlorophyll-containing tissues (especially the leaves) of plants exposed to sunlight.

**Reforestation:** The renewal of forest cover by natural regeneration or the planting of seeds or seedlings.

**Renewable Resource:** A naturally occurring raw material or form of energy which has the capacity to be replenished.

**Sapwood:** Thick-walled cells that are responsible for transporting water and nutrients from the roots to the leaves. Also called *new xylem*.

**Silviculture:** The care and cultivation of forest trees.

**Snag**: A standing dead tree from which the leaves and most of the branches have fallen.

**Softwoods**: A coniferous or needle-leaved tree.

**Succession**: The gradual replacement of one community by another over time.

**Thinning**: A common management practice in which smaller, weaker, and defective trees are cut down so that the other trees can grow healthier and faster.

**Understory**: The forest layer formed by the crowns of the smaller trees in the forest.

**Xylem**: The conducting cells in a tree that carry water and minerals to the trunk, branches, and leaves.