

Notation 17-1

Commonly used crown classes and the characteristics of trees in those classes (*after Kraft 1884; Hawley 1921; Baker 1950; Köstler 1956; Assmann 1970; Ford-Robertson 1971; Daniel et al. 1979; Hocker 1979; Spurr and Barnes 1980; Smith 1986; Oliver and Larson 1990; Smith et al. 1997; Helms 1998*).

Tree Crown Classes and Their Characteristics

- Dominant
 - crown extends above the general canopy layer for the stand
 - crown intercepts direct sunlight across the top and along sides of the upper branches
 - crown well developed and large, though usually somewhat crowded along lower branches
 - tree diameter usually among the largest in the stand
- Codominant
 - crown within and helping to form the main crown canopy for the stand
 - crown intercepts direct sunlight across the top, but only at tips of the upper side branches
 - crown well developed, but of only medium size and crowded at the sides
 - tree diameter among the upper range of those present, but not the largest
- Intermediate
 - crown extends somewhat into the lower part of the main canopy
 - crown intercepts direct sunlight only at a limited area on the top and none at the sides
 - crown narrow and short, with limited leaf surface area and a low live-crown ratio
 - tree diameter within the lower range of those present, but not necessarily the smallest
- Overtopped
 - crown entirely below the main canopy and covered by branches of taller trees
 - no direct sunlight strikes at any portion of the crown
 - crown small, often lopsided, flat-topped, and sparse
 - tree diameter among the smallest in the stand