

Notation 17-4

Common terms that describe conditions in even-aged stands.

Important Even-Aged Stand Conditions

Stocking (after Soc. Am. For. 1950; Ford-Robertson 1971; Helms 1998)

- the number of trees per unit area compared with the desired number for best growth and management
- the amount of any measurable attribute on a given area, particularly in relation to what is considered optimum
- a subjective indication of the numbers of trees, compared with the desired number for best results
- the proportion of area actually occupied by trees, as distinct from stand density

Stand density (Ford-Robertson 1971; Helms 1998)

- the degree of crowding within stocked areas, using various growing space ratios based on crown length or diameter, tree height or diameter, and spacing
- the numbers, basal area, or volume expressed relatively or absolutely per unit area

Fully stocked stand (Soc. Am. For. 1950)

- trees effectively occupy all growing space but have ample room for development
- synonymous with *normal stand*

Normal stand or forest (Soc. Am. For. 1950; Ford-Robertson 1971)

- the best-producing fully stocked area for a given species, site, and method of treatment
- a forest or stand that has reached and maintains a particularly attainable degree of perfection relative to the objectives for management
- a standard for comparing other stands to bring out their deficiencies

Overstocked (Soc. Am. For. 1950)

- trees occupy the growing space completely, so that growth has slowed
- a condition where many trees are oppressed or suppressed

Relative density (after Curtis 1970; Helms 1990)

- stand density expressed as a proportion of some reference level
- the absolute density (e.g., basal area/acre) expressed as a percent of the average maximum common to stands at a similar stage of development and species composition