

Tree Sensitivity to Climate Change

Presented by the Canadian Forest Service (CFS)

Sensitivity Indices

Researchers have created indices of tree species sensitivity for three key climate change stressors:

DROUGHT	MIGRATION	FIRE
Increased frequency of drought events	Shifts in climatically suitable habitat	Increased fire intensity and frequency

Each index ranks the relative ability of the most common tree species in Eastern Canada to cope with these climate stressors.

The sensitivity indices were developed based on the various “strategies” a species can use in response to climate change. An index value was attributed to each species based on its relative ability to use a given strategy when faced with drought, rapid shifts in suitable climatic conditions, and fire.

Strategies used by tree species:

