

# Vermont Forest Health

## Tree Condition in Maple Sugaring Sites on State Lands: Results for 2014



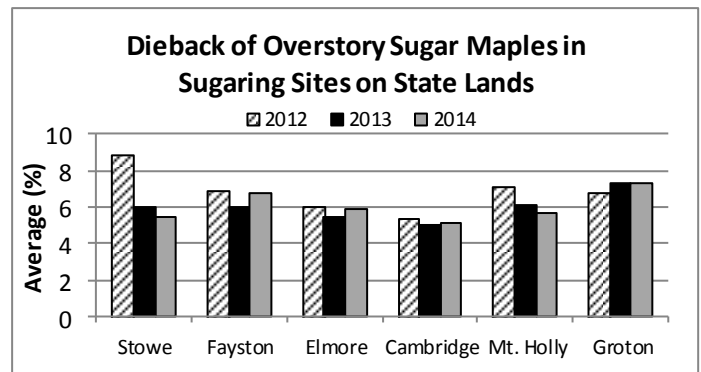
Department of Forests, Parks, & Recreation  
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### Results For 2014

In 2012, forest health monitoring plots were established in seven sites on state lands under license agreement for maple sugaring. Plot design and measurements are the same as for the 30 other sugar maple health monitoring plots in Vermont previously established under the North American Maple Project (NAMP). One site, in Andover, has since been discontinued as a sugarbush.

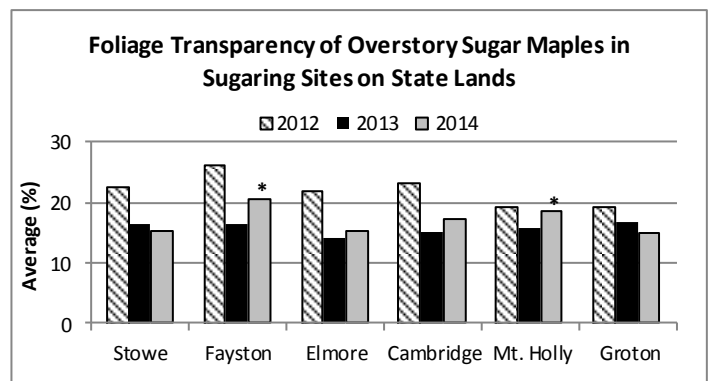
Substantial defoliation affected four of the sites in 2012 but none of the sites had any significant defoliation in 2013. However in 2014, two sites, Fayston and Mt. Holly, had scattered moderate defoliation. As a consequence, the foliage transparency rating, which indicates leaf density, showed significant increase at these two sites over 2013. There was no statistically significant difference in crown dieback between years at any of the sites.

The 2014 sugar maple condition ratings on the six sites were similar to average ratings for the 30 NAMP plots statewide, which include sugarbush and untapped maple stands scattered throughout the state. Dieback and transparency for overstory trees averaged 6.3% and 18.3%, compared to 7.1% and 16.9% for the NAMP plot maples.



Dieback evaluates new dead twigs. Higher ratings indicate current or past stress effects on tree health.

Foliage transparency evaluates the density of leaves. Higher ratings indicate thinner foliage, and reflect current year stress.



**For more information, contact the Forest Biology Laboratory at 802-879-5687 or:**

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