



Vermont Forest Health

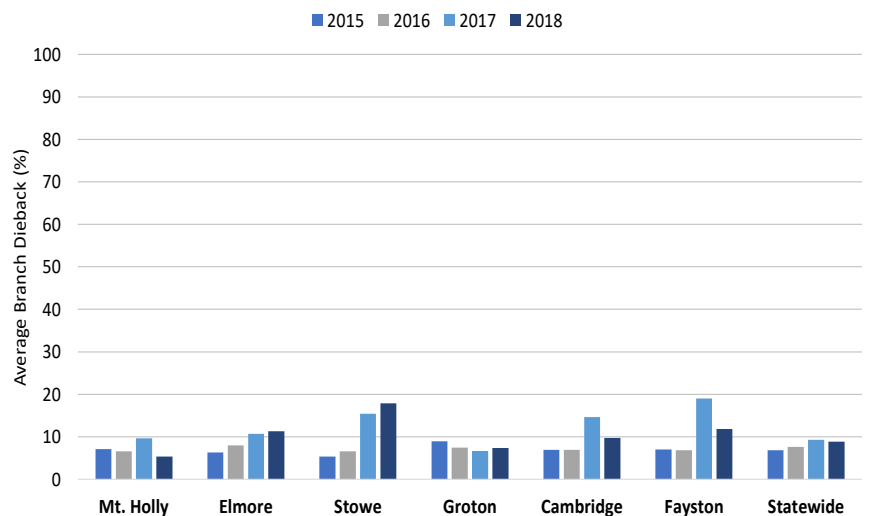
Tree Condition in Maple Sugaring Sites on State Lands: Results for 2018

Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation
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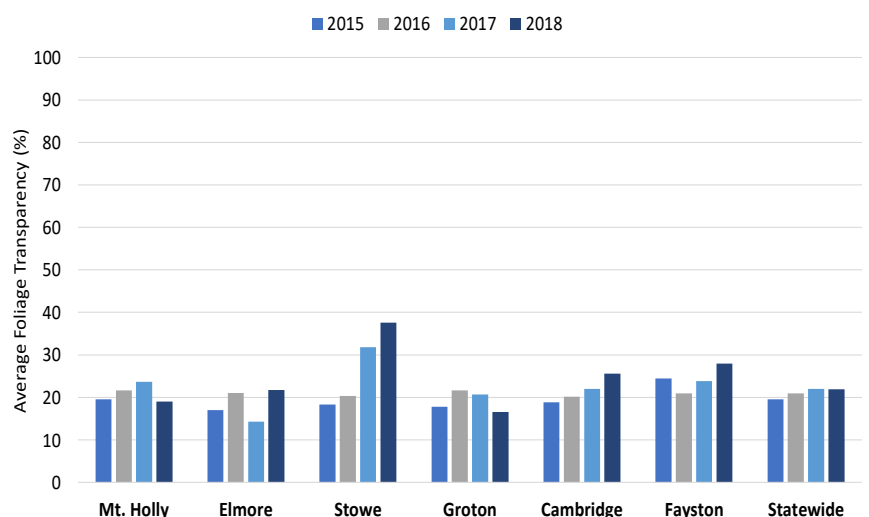
There are currently 36 sugar maple health monitoring plots statewide throughout Vermont, with six of these occurring on state lands under license agreement for maple sugaring purposes. Each year, the crowns of sugar maples within these monitoring plots are assessed for both branch dieback and foliage transparency. Branch dieback is a measure of the amount of newly dead twigs each season, with higher ratings indicating the effects of current or past stress events on overall tree health. Foliage transparency is a measure of the amount of skylight visible through the foliated branches of a tree's live crown and averaged for the crown as a whole. This rating often reflects the current year impacts of insects, disease, or other environmental stresses.

The graphs presented here illustrate trends in both average branch dieback and average foliage transparency from 2015-2018. This period of time coincides with an outbreak of forest tent caterpillar (FTC), which began in 2016. Although FTC defoliation was not observed in our monitoring plots in 2018, the effects of previous defoliation are still apparent in some locations. Branch dieback in plots on state lands averaged 11%, compared to a slightly lower statewide average of 9% across all 36 plots. Similarly, foliage transparency in plots on state lands averaged 25%, compared to a slightly lower statewide average of 22% across all 36 plots.

Average Branch Dieback of Sugar Maples on State Lands



Average Foliage Transparency of Sugar Maples on State Lands



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

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