



Lake George Forestry Inc.

Christian Gearwar

Lake George Forestry Inc.

New York State Ranger School 1969

College of Forestry at Syracuse University 1972

CEC courses at Amherst, MA, SAF and Cooperative Extensions

Experience

I have been writing and implementing stand treatment prescriptions for corporate, municipal and private forest owners throughout my career. My work area is primarily New York State and includes Massachusetts, Vermont and New Hampshire. Municipal properties are usually long term ownership and have provided the best opportunity to track and monitor regeneration projects. I have implemented and monitored 7 EQIP projects concerning regeneration of red oak and northern hardwood stands. My success at regenerating white pine has ranged from fair to excellent. Thinning white pines during bare ground conditions, which results in maximum surface soil scarification, usually provides good white pine seedling regeneration. I have had good success in regenerating northern hardwood stands (beech, birch, maple) using strip cuts. The width of the strip cuts is important and the exposed forest floor can be covered with raspberries for a time before the hardwood seedlings become established. The even-aged red oak stands in New York and New England indicate that they often became established in abandoned fields and burned over areas. I have had success in regenerating red oak as a percentage of the total species mix, but not as an even-aged stand. I have not been involved in deer enclosures or herbicide applications due to their expense. That may change with the expansion of invasive plants.

Science is our best ally in dealing with the vagaries of nature. The seed viability, drought, browsing, rubus, ferns, light seeded species, etc. impact the success of regenerating target species. Understanding the site requirements of individual tree species, degrees of light filtration, correct timing of preparatory cuts, canopy removal and patience are key to successful forest regeneration.

