



Backyard Woods

bring your vision to life



United States
Department of
Agriculture



Forest Service

Northeastern Area
State & Private Forestry

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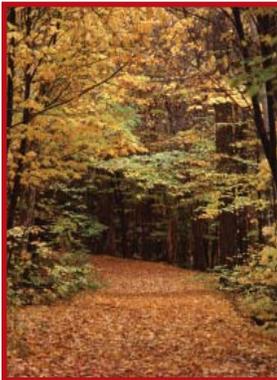
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INTRODUCTION

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1 MAKE A MASTER PLAN

Family Activity:
Taking a Trail Tour

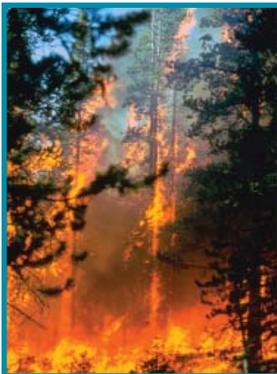
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2 WORK SAFELY WITH A CHAIN SAW

Family Activity:
A Log Home

page 8



3 PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY FROM WILDFIRE

Family Activity:
Fire Audit

page 11



4 IDENTIFY AND MANAGE HAZARDOUS DEFECTS IN YOUR TREES

Family Activity:
There's a Fungus in Your Woods

page 15



5 KEEP YOUR WOODS HEALTHY

Family Activity:
Insects Are Everywhere!

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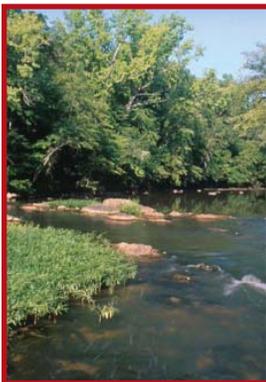
6 ATTRACT WILDLIFE

Family Activity:
Apartment for Rent

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“Your woodlot is, in fact, an historical document which faithfully records your personal philosophy.”

Aldo Leopold



7

**PROTECT
CLEAN WATER**

Family Activity:
It's Raining Cats and
Dogs!

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8

**HELP YOUR
PREFERRED TREES
GROW**

Family Activity:
Leave It to Me!

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9

**PRUNE YOUR
TREES**

Family Activity:
Old as the Hills

page 30



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PLANT TREES

Family Activity:
Trees Grow and Grow

page 32



11

**GROW AND
COLLECT SPECIAL
FOREST PRODUCTS**

Family Activity:
Bird Cone Treats

page 35



12

**GENERATE WOOD
PRODUCTS**

Family Activity:
Finding Firewood

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Bring Your Vision to Life

From lush temperate rainforests in the Pacific Northwest to the semitropics of Florida, the woods are alive. Wooded land doesn't have to cover hundreds or thousands of acres to harbor richness and diversity of life. Your backyard woods can be filled with crawling creatures, fascinating mushrooms, towering trees, and other living things.



Robert Karpa, Masterfile

Perhaps you dream of sitting on a deck, overlooking lush green scenery. Or you may want to attract birds, deer, or other animals, or harvest special forest products or mature trees. You may even want to improve your land for your children and grandchildren. Whatever your vision, with a little planning and work, your backyard woods can be a

true jewel to you, your family, and the wild creatures that depend on it.

This booklet was written for the 6 million landowners in the United States who own 1 to 10 acres. While such acreages may seem small, they have big impacts. Backyard woods collectively add up to millions of acres.



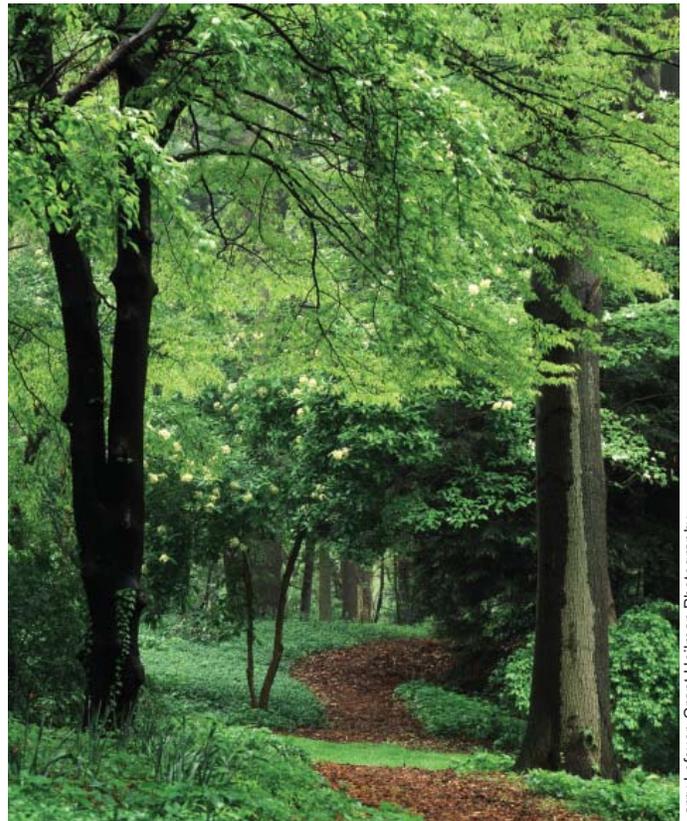
Masterfile



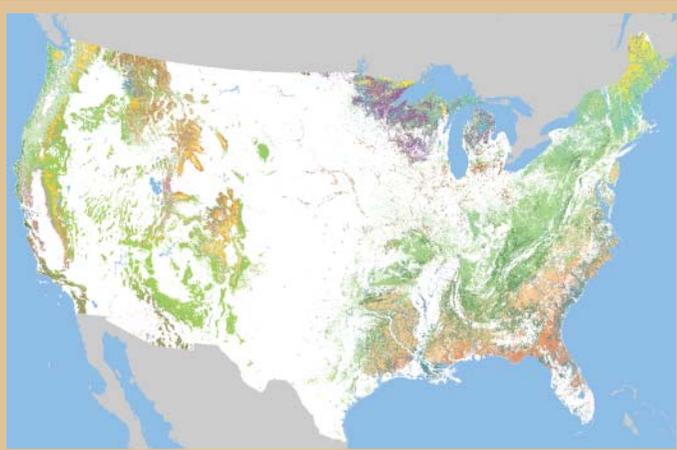
Steve and Dave Maslowski

In some areas, backyard woods are a dominant part of the landscape.

This booklet and the companion tip sheets will help you plan and manage your backyard woods. The effects of the things you do to manage your woods extend far beyond your property boundaries. Every bird that hatches in your woods and every tree you plant makes the landscape, as a whole, a richer place.

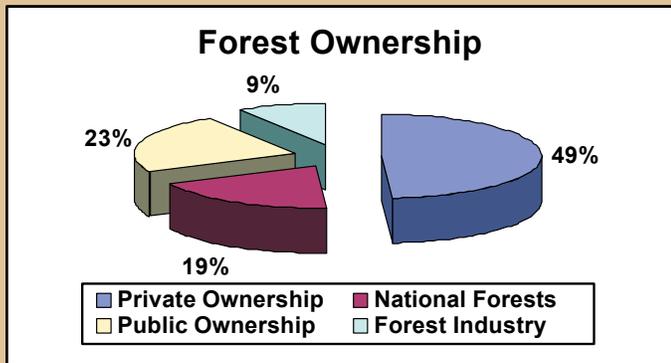


Larry Lefever, Grant Heilman Photography



Did You Know . . . ?

Forests cover 1/3 of the United States. Ownership is diverse, with 49 percent in private ownership, 19 percent in national forests, 23 percent in other public ownership, and 9 percent held by forest industry. Backyard woods owners comprise 60 percent of all U.S. private forest landowners.



William M. Ciesla, Forest Health Management International, www.forestryimages.org

To read companion tip sheets with more in-depth information, go to www.arborday.org/backyardwoods.



Ron Francis

In the Forest

Forest land in the United States is owned publicly and privately. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service manages 147 million acres of forest land represented here by the Roosevelt National Forest in Colorado. The 10 million private forest landowners in the United States own 363 million acres of forest land. Just like your backyard woods, large forests provide scenic beauty, recreation, wildlife habitat, clean water, wood products, and many other benefits.



Tony Sweet and Marian Kraus, Digital Vision

The information presented in the “In the Forest” sections will broaden your perspective from your backyard woods to the larger forest landscape.