

Silviculture

Many landowners and loggers do not understand the basics of thinning and selective cutting and often need professional forestry assistance to design and apply these cutting systems. From the act of leaving some trees standing to the selection of their ability for further growth, trees are often mistakenly considered good stands. This is often the case for landowners and harvest operators.

Thinning is a cutting made in a forest to redistribute the growth potential among the trees that would otherwise be lost. Thinning results in fewer, larger trees with greater volume, and value which are better prepared for a harvest/regeneration cycle.

The basic objective of thinning is to provide growing space in a forest stand for the trees that are most likely to survive and produce new seedlings. Thinning is a selective operation that will not only provide growing space, but also reduce the risk of fire, wind damage, and insect infestation. Thinning is a time to determine the dominant species in a stand and to remove the trees that are not likely to survive and produce new seedlings.

Traditionally, the trees removed in a thinning are sold through commercial operations. However, recent advances in wood-composite products such as waferwood have made thinning a commercial operation that provides substantial profits while improving the health and value of the forest.