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Page Tools

DEPARTMENT OF

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Contact Us | News | Online Services | Sitemap

About DACF

Animals & Plants

Forest

Geology

Recreation

Farming

Planning

Licensing & Regulations

Bureaus & Programs

DACF Home → Bureaus & Programs → Maine Natural Areas Program → Communities, Plants, and Animals → Natural Communities and Ecosystems → Ecosystems in Maine → Spruce - Fir - Northern Hardwoods Forest Ecosystem

About MNAP
Focus Areas
Communities, Plants and Animals
Natural Communities and Ecosystems
Rare Plants
Invasive Plants
Ecological Inventory and Monitoring
Rare Animals
State and Global Rarity Ranks
Survey Forms
Maps, Data, and Technical Assistance
Ecological Reserves

# Maine Natural Areas Program

## Spruce - Fir - Northern Hardwoods Forest Ecosystem


[State Rank: S5](#)

This forest ecosystem can be found over most of the northern half of the state, and is often referred to by foresters as the *Spruce - Fir - Northern Hardwoods* zone. Red spruce and balsam fir are the most widespread conifers. Conifer-dominated and hardwood-dominated forests intergrade with one another: conifers are typically found in the lowlands or at the highest elevations, while northern hardwood forests are found at mid-elevation hillsides or along mid-elevation ridgelines. This ecosystem is almost entirely limited to terrestrial communities, although it may include vernal pools and intermittent streams.

### Natural Communities Associated with Spruce - Fir - Northern Hardwoods Forest Ecosystem

- [Aspen - Birch Woodland/Forest Complex](#)
- [Beech - Birch - Maple Forest](#)
- [Cedar - Spruce Seepage Forest](#)
- [Fir - Heart-leaved Birch Subalpine Forest](#)
- [Hemlock Forest](#)
- [Jack Pine Forest](#)
- [Jack Pine Woodland](#)
- [Labrador Tea Talus Dwarf-Shrubland](#)
- [Maple - Basswood - Ash Forest](#)
- [Red Pine - White Pine Forest](#)
- [Red Pine Woodland](#)
- [Red Spruce - Mixed Conifer Woodland](#)
- [Spruce - Fir - Broom-moss Forest](#)
- [Spruce - Fir - Cinnamon Fern Forest](#)
- [Spruce - Fir - Wood-sorrel - Feather-moss Forest](#)
- [Spruce Heath Barren](#)
- [Spruce - Northern Hardwoods Forest](#)
- [Spruce Talus Woodland](#)
- [White Pine - Mixed Conifer Forest](#)

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