

Tento projekt je spolufinancován Evropským sociálním fondem a Státním rozpočtem ČR InoBio – CZ.1.07/2.2.00/28.0018



European silver fir - Abies alba Mill.



- Silver fir is one of the endangered species in Europe, which is suffering in particular from unsuitable management tools and economic pressure, in spite of its ecological value for European forest ecosystems.
- The aim of WP is to provide a platform for concerted activities from different scientific disciplines in close co-operation with practitioners in order to contribute to the maintenance of Silver fir by improving the knowledge and the management tools.

IUFRO Working Party 1.01.09 – Ecology and silviculture of European silver fir



Species composition

In the natural composition of our forests was silver fir represented by (16%) (15% spruce), still had in 1950 represented 2.9%, at present, however, its share dropped below 1% of the forest area of the Czech Republic. The concept of representation of the target species in the forests of the CR is expected to gradually increase the proportion of fir forests in the next 50 years at 3%, and 100year term at 5%.During one rotation period should be secured and guaranteed fir regeneration to 130 000 ha (ie an annual average of 1.3 thousand hectares). Besides the natural regeneration will have to be fir, of course (given the extent of its current representation) regenerated by artificial way.



Characteristics and requirements for the regeneration and silviculture of silver fir

Generally known properties of fir is mainly its ability to tolerate shade (some decades). Its demands for a light are influenced by a complex of other climatic factors (temperature, precipitation, humidity, soil moisture, air flow) and the character of soil factors. It is logical that the habitat conditions are favorable, thereby reducing demands on light. In contrast, in the colder higher elevations, or on drying and themineral-poor calls on the lower or do it is extension to domands on light if religions soils on the lower end of its extension, the demands on light fir significantly higher (Svoboda 1952).

Fir needs shade in young stage for healthy growth

In close connection with the light should review the requirements of fir for temperature. The average annual temperature should not fall below 5 to 8 ° C, in summer should be the average temperature of 12 ° to 15 ° C (Korpel', Vins 1965).

Fir requires adequate moisture regime. Its successful growth and development is subject to favorable, high relative humidity, in particular, but plenty of rain (during the growing season of at least 350 to

400 mm). It is not only sensitive to dry periods, but also severe winters, late frosts and air flow.

Silver fir may be regarded as our most delicate coniferous species because in addition to the above mentioned requirements for moisture and temperature requires for its successful growth and deep, the nutrient rich soil (Kadlus and digged 1975, Sokol1956).

Abies alba is a large evergreen coniferous tree growing to 40-50 m (exceptionally 60 m) tall and with a trunk diameter of up to 1.5 m. The largest measured tree was 68 m tall and had a trunk diameter of 3.8 m. It occurs at altitudes of 300-1,700 m (mainly over 500 m), on mountains with a rainfall of over 1,000 mm.



Extension of fir in Europe



Extension of fir in Czech republic and forest vegetation zones





Backman's growth law

conception of organic time by Gaston Backman (1883-1964)

The conceptual basis of Backman's function of growth, is the postulate that the logarithm of growth rate is negatively proportional to the square of time's logarithm



Variable T is called an organic time, which is expressed by the fact that a physical time interval for the organism has a different degree of effectiveness in youth than in old age (at any stage of development of the organism time passes at different rates).

- From Backman studies on the concept of organic time implies several key findings: a) the greater is the maximum growth rate and the sooner it reaches, the shorter the life expectancy;
- b) the later reaches the maximum growth rate, the longer it lasts for life;
 c) the longer the life, the greater the average rate of the final overall size of the organism;
 d) life is shorter, more and more of the total time of growth attributable to stage youth.
- Backman distinguishes three types of growth:
- space-time type that first acquires space and then uses the time is growing rapidly and its growth relatively quickly subsiding;
 time-space type that uses the first time and only later acquires space. In the beginning, then slowly grows, its growth rate which increases later and remains long on a high level;
- type that grows evenly throughout life.

Ideas about organic time are of great importance in silviculture and forest management

Stand 123C7, Olomučany Forest District, Křtiny Training Forest Enterprise

- The stand is situated on a plateau slightly sloped towards NE at an altitude of 460 m (co-ordinates $49^{\circ}19'25''$ N and $16^{\circ}40'11''$ E).
- The total area of the stand is 10.84 ha.
- From the viewpoint of forest typology, the stand was ranked among forest type 3S6, i.e. oak/beech communities of *Luzula* type with *Carex digitata*.
- In 1960 when the stand was aged 39 years, Department of Silviculture of the Faculty of Forestry in Brno established there permanent thinning plots according to a traditional layout (low thinning, high thinning, control).













Natural regeneration of silver fir



The extent and quality of natural regeneration of fir are as in other species subject to four basic conditions:

- presence of a sufficient number of trees able to produce seeds (genetically matching),
- suitable soil conditions for germination, germination and survival of natural seeding, favorable climatic conditions from the beginning to ensure natural seeding.
- In addition, success of natural regeneration of fir need 5 requirement, namely:
- suitable spatial structure of the restored stand (height differentiation of vegetation).
 If any of these conditions are not met, the success of natural regeneration is severely restricted, either, but more frequently entirely excluded.

Natural regeneration of silver fir potential problems and causes

When analyzing the difficulties of natural regeneration of fir is possible to describe three ba

- Fir natural seeding not arise in the restored stand.
- Natural seeding of fir die in the first years of life before their security. Natural seeding of fir seem secure, but die and do not apply in the subsequent stand.

The cause of the first situation can be:

- a) lack of resp., poor quality seeds,
 b) unfavorable, unsuitable soil conditions for germination.
- The causes are usually in second situation.
- a) inadequate state of the upper layers of soil b) unsuitable microclimatic conditions

The third situation is caused by:

- a) the sudden release of in natural seeding is not growing,
 b) severe damage to the destruction of natural seeding wasteful cutting and skidding,
- c) damage of wildlife, insect and fungal pestsd) competition from other species and weed.



Spatial regulation of natural regeneration

Spatial regulation of naturally regenerated fir stands, respectively mixed stands with fir tree representation is built primarily on different varieties of small-scale shelterwood fellings - gap fellings.

In a similar way you can also use the spontaneous regeneration of fir stand in clearings, resulting in incidents such as harvesting. Besides shelterwood fellings fir can be successfully regenerated by form of strip-shelterwood fellings, respectively in the inner peripheral edge of the border fellings.

Temporal regulation of natural regeneration





The basic parameter is the length of time editing regeneration time, which must be in the stands with the representation of fir significantly longer than in other stand types. If natural regeneration is to be successful and follow-fir stands to be environmentally stable, <u>must be regeneration time longer than 30 years, and no</u> <u>exception will be cases where from the first intervention to final</u> <u>felling of stand 60 or 70 years.</u> Thus stand reaches the height and thickness differentiated stand structure with vertical or stepped canopy closure. Regeneration of fir is always tied to a larger number of seed years.

Artificial regeneration

- If we want to increase the proportion of fir in our forests to the already mentioned 5%, it becomes artificial restoration of this important species silviculture chalenge.
- In terms of spatial arrangements can theoretically restore the artificial fir use all basic types of regeneration methods, the practical importance are only the first two:
- below the parent stand (underplantings)
- regeneration by strip felling (where the width of the cuts is smaller then h)

Artificial regeneration of fir on strip fellings

- Regeneration by strip fellings are all types of regeneration clear cuts (gap felling, wedges, strips), whose width is less than the height of regenerated stands. Also included are classic border cutting with the outer edge, of course, again narrower than the height of the parent plants.
- Necessary protection against direct solar radiation is ensured by a suitable width and orientation of the applied cuts. Extremely interesting findings on this issue can be obtained from forgotten, forty year old study -Číhal, Jurča (1961).



The size and shape of the clear cut gaps when requesting full-time permanent shade of 20 June, on stand height 30 m (Číhal, Jurča 1961)



Regeneration - conclusion

- In both natural and artificial fir regeneration must primarily be respected basic biological and ecological requirements of this species. So that it can be raised its representation in our forests from less than 1% to 5% required. In simplified form it can be stated that the fir must be regenerated and subsequently grown on appropriate sites in mixed, age, height and thickness differentiated stands.
- Natural regeneration is of course primarily tied to the present of seed bearing trees in the stand. In the long regeneration time (30 to 70 years) appears to be most efficient and most effective form of various shelter cuts (gaps, strips, wedges).
- Artificial fir recovery will be applied everywhere, where we can not use natural regeneration. The basic rules are the same artificial recovery as the recovery of natural - long regeneration time and differentiated spatial arrangement of newly established stands.
- Essential for successful growth of fir is an effective protection against animals.

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Tree Species

- > The "classic" species composition is silver fir (Abies alba), Norway spruce (Picea abies), beech (Fagus sylvatica) and arolla pine (Pinus cembra). Recently also sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus), and ash (Fraxinus exelsior) are often used.
- > the application of a selection system is not limited to these tree species

Advantages and limitations of the selection system.

Advantages

- Emulates the gap-phase processes that occur naturally due to small blowdowns.
 The only silvicultural system that creates or maintains unevenaged stands.
- Excellent for promoting natural regeneration of shade-tolerant species. Provides excellent site protection, with little exposure to wind and insolation.

- Invasion by competing species is reduced due to maintenance of overstory and understory vegetation.
 Overstory provides continuous seed supply.
 Regeneration always has the protection (and competition) of older trees.
- Higher (biological and economical) gross production than evenaged systems, because growing space continually occupied, and more area allocated to growth of large, vigorous trees.
- Provides capital returns at short intervals.
 Provides a continuous flow of high quality timber.
- The canopy and associated vegetation maintain cover and food supply for wildlife species adapted to uneven-aged forests.
- Most aesthetically pleasing type of harvest.
 Provides a stable environment, including prevention of erosion, landslides and rapid runoff on steep slopes

Limitations

- · Complex, simultaneous operations (harvest, thinning, site preparation); work is spread throughout the stand and requires Highly skilled workers and close supervision.
 Immediate operational costs are higher (crop trees scattered,
- Initial and potential of the second second
- Must ensure that intermediate cuts in younger age classes are not neglected while harvesting the crop trees.
 Must apply careful logging practices to minimize damage to residual trees and regeneration.
 To maintain mid-tolerant species in a stand dominated by tolerants, may need to combine group selection (followed by site processing) with bit tree species.
- preparation) with single-tree selection. Limited applicability to shade-intolerant species



Single-Tree Selection

- Single-tree selection is used in **uneven-aged silvicultural systems** in which individual trees of all size classes are removed more or less uniformly throughout the stand to achieve desired stand structural characteristics. The primary advantage of single tree selection is that it maintains tree cover and moderates environmental conditions. As a result, it is well suited for many nonmarket objectives and is ideal for protection forests.
- Single-tree selection methods are most appropriate for stands in which shade-tolerant species are desired.
- Differences Between Managed and Unmanaged Uneven-Aged Stands
- Single-tree selection, in theory, simulates the natural gap-phase dynamics that occur in mature unmanaged natural stands (Bormann and Likens 1979). According to the gap-phase hypothesis, the death of a mature tree creates a canopy gap, and a new cohort develops in the patch of light that reaches the understory. The single-tree selection method differs from gap-phase regeneration in several respects (Nyland 1996):
- Selection cutting creates more gaps per unit area and with a more regular distribution than normally occur in a single year by natural gap-phase replacement. Foresters apply the selection method at regular intervals, creating a more uniform age class distribution over time.
- Therefore, compared with unmanaged uneven-aged stands, single-tree selection stands have:
- (1) greater numbers of seedlings and saplings per unit of area,
 (2) less distance and more regular spacing between the regeneration openings, and
 (3) added understory brightening due to periodic thinning and regularly scheduled cutting to recruit new age classes across fixed proportions of the stand area at predictable intervals.

Group Selection

Group selection is an uneven-aged silvicultural system in which trees are removed and new age-classes are established in small groups.

Group selection is similar to single-tree selection in that it involves periodic cuts that:

- (1) establish and develop reproduction;
- (2) improve stand structure and quality;(3) create a balanced even-aged stand; and,
- (4) control residual stocking for an even flow of products.

These cuttings open the same fixed proportion of stand area in both group and single-tree selection methods. The distinctive feature of group selection is that these cuttings are concentrated into fewer gaps of larger sizes; one advantage is that intermediate and shade-intolerant species can be regenerated (Roach 1974, Nyland 1996).
 The basic steps of how to apply group and single-tree selection are similar, as are the advantages and disadvantages. Some studies have shown that the economics of timber harvesting using group selection compare favorably with those using clearcutting.

There are several variations of the group selection method, including **patch selection**, **strip selection**, **group shelterwood**, and **group selection with reserves**. These methods are explained below.

Comparison of single tree and group tree selection.

Single-Tree Selection

- Creates small openings, where reproduction of tolerant species is easily obtained.
 Reproduction develops in small, scattered openings. • Site protection (from wind and sun) is excellent.
- · Aesthetically pleasing.
- Need frequent, light cuttings to prevent domination of
- the growing space by canopy expansion. Operator training and careful planning will ensure
- protection of regeneration and residuals.

Group Selection

- Creates larger openings, suited to mid- and intolerant species.
- Regeneration grows up in small even-aged groups, promoting better stem form.
- Some loss in site protection and aesthetic appeal.

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Control Method

The control method was developed by the French forester GURNAUD. It was put into practice in the forests of the Travers Valley by Henri BIOLLEY. It was chosen as being the most suitable as a guide to silvicultural treatment and most of all as a means to verify the results of the conversion into selection stands at regular intervals. The most important elements of the control method are:

- > full callipering of all stands (100% cruise)
- before harvest, measurement on standing tree
- > use of a single standard tariff for volume determination
- > delimitation into permanent compartments.



DBH distribution as an Indicator



More about control methods

http://oryx.mendelu.cz/hul2/index.php?opti on=com_content&task=view&id=32&Itemi d=39



Geographical distribution of areas with a long tradition of selection systems (Schütz, 2001)





Couvet







