

Forest Management for Sap Production: Why you should “Think Maple”

Description: A workshop for natural resource professionals designed to give participants the knowledge and skills necessary to have maple sap and syrup production as a management option for West Virginia woodland owners. This workshop will introduce participants to the maple industry, show how their skills are applicable to its woodlot management needs, and direct them to the technical support they would need to promote tapping.

When: October 11, 2022; 9:00am to 4:30pm (lunch provided)

Where: WVU Farm and sugarbush, Morgantown

Education Credits: *Applied for.*

RSVP: To reserve a space in the workshop, call or email Dave McGill, dmcgill@wvu.edu; 304-293-5930.

Schedule

09:00 – 09:30 Registration, coffee and donuts

09:30 – 10:45 Managing for Sap production/ Managing for Timber Production, or both.

Mike Rechlin, Maple Commodity Specialist, Future Generations University

This presentation will feature details of sap and syrup production. It will highlight reasons why maple sap and syrup production should be considered a management option for forestry professionals in management planning.

10:45 – 11:00 Travel from WVU farm to sugarbush

11:00 – 12:00 Tour WVU sugarbush and sugar camp

Jamie Schuler, Professor of Silviculture, West Virginia University

In this field workshop the attendees will learn about the WVU Maple Syrup course, the history of the sugar bush, and how to identify good sugaring trees.

12:00 – 1:00 Lunch (provided)

1:00 – 2:00 Managing a woodlot for sap production (*Field session in the woods*)

Jamie Schuler, Professor of Silviculture, West Virginia University

This field exercise will introduce the group to ways to incorporate maple syrup production into forest planning. Beginning with some common field measurements and incorporating work with stocking guides, a hands-on tree marking activity will allow participants to discuss how to best mark trees to thin for sap production.

2:00 – 3:00 Integrating NTFP’s into sugarbush management

Dave McGill WVU Extension and Logan Ferguson WVU Division of Forestry & NR

This session will encourage a discussion of how to best add value to existing sugaring operations by incorporating non-timber forest products into a farm’s revenue streams. Topics will include the use of common NTFPs and hear how plants that are found in these stands are related to their productivity.

3:00 – 4:00 Forest health threats to Maple

Matt Kasson, Assistant Professor of Plant Pathology

In this presentation, native and invasive pests that might affect the growth of and sap production of maples will be featured.

4:00 – 4:30 Technical resources through the WV/Ohio Forestry Maple Toolbox

Mike Rechlin, Maple Commodity Specialist, Future Generations University

There are many ways forestry professionals can access information about maple syrup production and the management strategies that optimize the growth of healthy maple trees. This session will go over the list of these and how they might help professionals include syruping and maple health as an option in their management planning efforts.

Future Generations University

