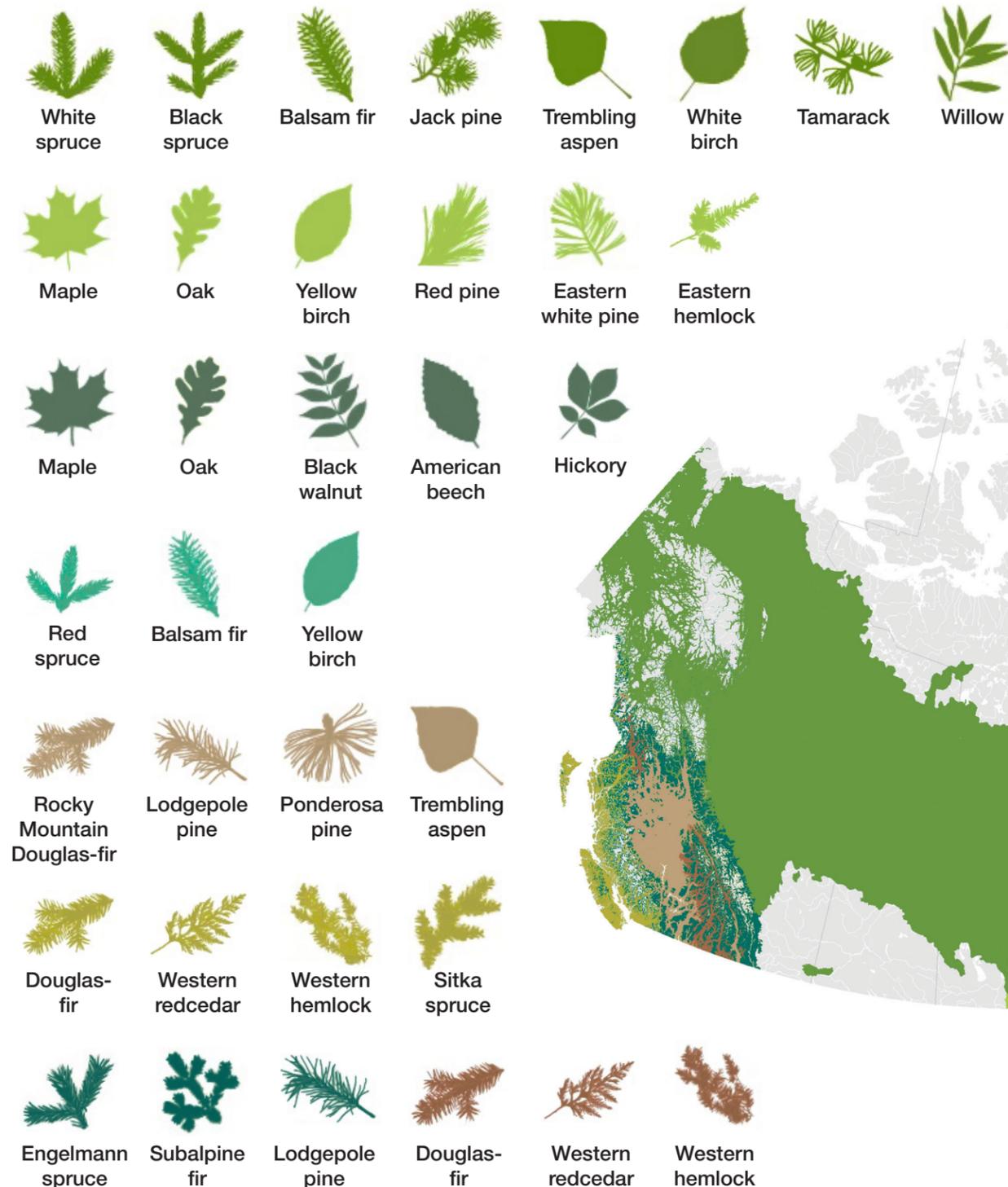
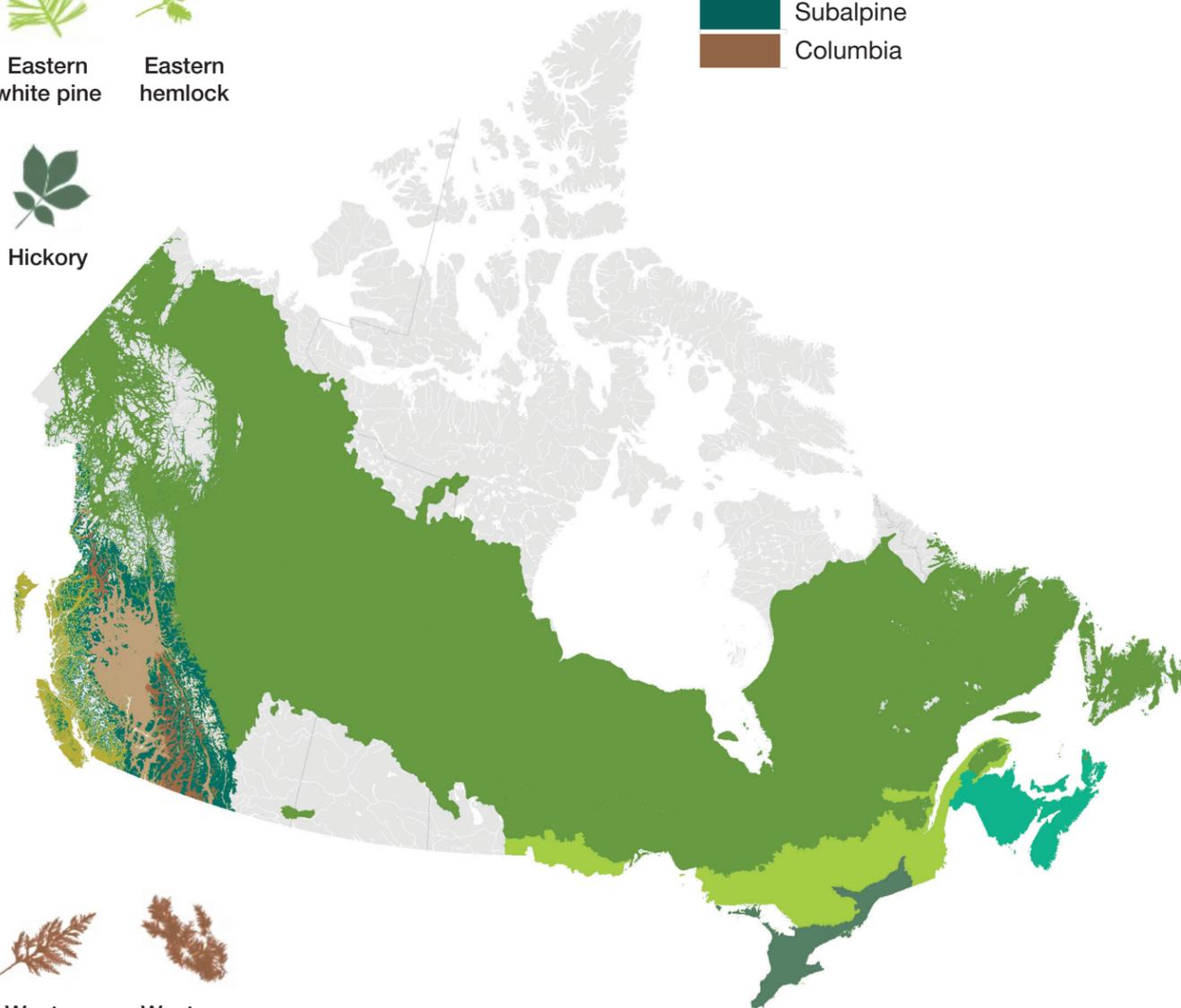


Leveraging forest regions to guide successful tree planting

Predominant tree species by regions



Forest regions



Canada is home to approximately 180 tree species.¹ The Canadian forest is divided into 8 forest regions, each distinguished by its vegetation and by the predominance of specific tree species.² The forest region classification differs from the ecozone classification, which is based on a unique combination of geological, climatic, vegetative, faunal, and human-related factors.² This forest region framework helps guide forest management decisions at the governmental or private sector level. To ensure planted trees survive, thrive, and grow to their full potential, species must be carefully matched to site conditions and the appropriate region.³ When natural regeneration is insufficient, effective site preparation is essential to address soil and microsite limitations.⁴

Planting the right species in the right place strengthens climate benefits by supporting sustained growth, resilience to disturbance, and long-term storage.⁵ Tree planting plays a vital role in reducing carbon emissions as trees capture and store carbon throughout their life in living biomass, dead organic matter, and soil. Globally, forests help offset about one-third of human-caused annual carbon emission.

Moreover, choosing appropriate species and diversity can also promote healthy and resilient forests that support long-term ecosystem services. Tree choice should match long-term goals, such as supporting wildlife, creating windbreaks, growing timber, or preserving views.

Sources and Information

- ¹ Farrar JL. Trees in Canada. Fitzhenry & Whiteside; 1995.
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- ³ The science behind getting trees in the ground. Natural Resources Canada; 2025 [updated 10 Sept 2025]. <https://natural-resources.canada.ca/corporate/corporate-overview/canadian-forest-service/science-behind-getting-trees-ground>
- ⁴ Grow a green future: a guide for successful tree planting. Natural Resources Canada; 2023 [accessed 10 Oct 2025]. https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2024/rncan-nrcan/Fo4-217-2023-eng.pdf
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