

# CATEGORIES OF EUROPEAN FOREST TYPES



A forest type (FT) is 'A category of forest defined by its composition, and/or site factors, as categorised in a given area (e.g. continents, nation, region), in a system suitable to its situation'. The European FTs were developed to reflect the ecological diversity of pan-European forests and they are categorized in 14 first-level classes.

Extensive boreal, species-poor forests, dominated by Norway spruce and scots pine. Deciduous trees tend to occur as early colonisers.

1

• **BOREAL FORESTS**

**HEMIBOREAL & NEMORAL CONIFEROUS & MIXED BROADLEAVED-CONIFEROUS FOREST**

2

Latitudinal mixed forests located in between the boreal and nemoral forest zones with similar characteristics to EFT 1, but a slightly higher tree species diversity.

High-altitude forest belts of central and southern European mountain ranges. Includes also the mountain forest dominated by birch of the boreal region.

3

• **ALPINE FOREST**

**ACIDOPHILOUS OAK & OAK-BIRCH FOREST**

4

Scattered occurrence associated with less fertile soils of the nemoral forest zone; the tree species composition is poor and dominated by acidophilous oaks & birch.

Related to medium rich soils of the nemoral forest zone; forest composition is mixed and made up of a relatively large number of broadleaved deciduous trees.

5

• **MESOPHYTIC DECIDUOUS FOREST**

**BEECH FOREST**

6

Widely distributed lowland to submountainous beech forest. Beech, *Fagus sylvatica* and *F. orientalis* (Balkan) dominate.

Mixed broadleaved deciduous and coniferous vegetation belt in the main European mountain ranges.

7

• **MOUNTAINOUS BEECH FOREST**

**THERMOPHILOUS DECIDUOUS FOREST**

8

Deciduous and semi-deciduous forests mainly of the Mediterranean region are dominated by thermophilous species.

Broadleaved evergreen forests of the Mediterranean and Macaronesian regions dominated by *sclerophyllous* or *lauriphyllous* trees.

9

• **BROADLEAVED EVERGREEN FOREST**

**CONIFEROUS FORESTS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN, ANATOLIAN & MACARONESIAN REGIONS**

10

Varied group of coniferous forests in Mediterranean, Anatolian & Macaronesian regions, from the coast to high mountains.

Wetland forests on peaty soils are widely distributed in the boreal region. Water and nutrient regimes determine the dominant tree species

11

• **MIRE AND SWAMP FOREST**

**FLOODPLAIN FOREST**

12

Riparian and riverine species-rich forests characterised by different assemblages of species of *Alnus*, *Betula*, *Populus*, *Salix*, *Fraxinus*, *Ulmus*.

Pioneer forests dominated by *Alnus*, *Betula* or *Populus*.

13

• **NON-RIVERINE ALDER, BIRCH OR ASPEN FOREST**

**INTRODUCED TREE SPECIES FOREST**

14

Forests dominated by introduced tree species, occurring on a wide range of site conditions which otherwise would develop forests of above categories.

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