

Canada Land Inventory will facilitate more detailed future studies as more detailed land capability information becomes available and as socio-economic factors change.

The Canada Land Inventory project was completed in 1971, and nine reports are available as follows:

1. Objectives, Scope and Organization
2. Soil Capability, Classifications for Agriculture
3. The Climates of Canada for Agriculture
4. Land Capability Classification for Forestry
5. The Economics of Plantation Forestry in Southern Ontario
6. Land Capability Classification for Outdoor Recreation
7. Land Capability Classification for Wildlife
8. Soil Capability Analysis for Agriculture in Nova Scotia
9. Land Owners and Land Use in the Tantramar Area, New Brunswick

Coming from Newfoundland, I was particularly interested in reports Nos. 4, 8 and 9 dealing with forestry and agriculture in the Maritime provinces.

Land capability ratings for forestry run from class 1 to class 7. Class 1 denotes the productivity of 111 to 210 cubic feet per acre per year, while class 7 denotes complete unsuitability. Class 1 capability is found only in British Columbia. Class 2 land capability has a productivity of from 91 to 100 cubic feet per acre per year.

The report showed there were no areas of class 1 or class 2 forest land in Nova Scotia or Prince Edward Island, and only a very little of class 2 in New Brunswick. In fact, most forest areas in the Maritime provinces fall into the class 4 and class 5 category, with a few small patches of class 3. Class 3 has a productivity from 71 to 90 cubic feet per acre per year, while class 5 has a productivity from 30 to 50 cubic feet per acre per year.

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As far as Newfoundland is concerned, most of the forest land falls within class 4, although there are considerable tracts of class 3 and even some of class 2. These latter are mostly forests of balsam fir mixed with birch and white spruce.

Report No. 8 deals exclusively with agriculture in Nova Scotia. The summary appears at page viii of report No. 8, and reads:

Nova Scotia has a land area of 13,057,000 acres. The climate is humid temperate. Annual precipitation ranges from 60 inches in coastal areas to about 40 inches inland; the frost-free period ranges from 160 days on the south coast to less than 60 days in a few inland valleys.

The uplands and highlands usually have shallow, stony soils, and rock outcrops are common. Most areas with significant agricultural potential are found in the lowlands, where the soils have developed on deep tills, alluvial floodplains and fluvio-marine sediments of tidal estuaries. Less than 25 per cent of the province has agricultural potential under present economic conditions.

The soils have developed under conditions of high rainfall, a cool temperate climate, and forest vegetation. This combination of factors has favoured the process of leaching and, as a result, most of the soils are naturally acid and have low fertility. These conditions must be corrected before satisfactory yields of most crops can be attained. The most widely used soils are relatively stone free, moderately coarse textured and freely drained. These are preferred because they can be adapted to growing a wide range of crops. Finer textured soils have a restricted range of use because of inadequate drainage, low permeability or other factors. The major soils found in the provinces are podzols and luvisols, with smaller areas of regosols and gleysols.

Areas of the province having significant acreages of cleared farmlands with soils suitable for a wide range of crops have been designated as *multi-crop blocks*. These areas total 930,000 acres, of which about 30 per cent is now cleared arable land.

Other areas having actual and potential use, primarily for forage oriented agriculture, are designated as *limited-use blocks*. These areas total 1,911,000 acres, of which about 12 per cent is now cleared arable land.

The remainder of the province, about 10,216,000 acres, is classed as *non-agricultural land*. This area has some potential for those types of agriculture not dependent on an arable land base or which require only a small acreage of good land for a viable operation.

Three major areas, Northumberland Shore, Annapolis Valley Region, and the Cobequid Shore are deemed to have adequate acreages of suitable soils to support grain farming as a major enterprise. In addition, these areas are suited to the production of small fruits, vegetables, potatoes and forage crops, including corn for silage. Of these three regions, only the Annapolis Valley is considered suitable for commercial production of tree fruits.

Antigonish Shore has a largely undeveloped potential for small fruit and vegetable production. A ready and growing market exists for these products and for fluid milk in the Strait of Canso and Sydney industrial areas. The potential of this shore for tobacco production is under investigation.

Sydney and Yarmouth have locational advantages which partly offset the disadvantages of poorer soils. A ready market exists in each area for fluid milk, small fruit, and fresh vegetables, all of which can be produced on a commercial scale. Farmers in these areas are next door to the potential markets of Newfoundland and Northeastern U.S.A. and would be in a position to benefit should these markets be developed on a large scale.

Lunenburg County is situated reasonably close to Metropolitan Halifax-Dartmouth. Moreover, a significant acreage of this area is suitable for commercial production of small fruits, vegetables and tree fruits. Development of local markets, together with expanded production of these products, would seem to offer