

Interpretation

RTS values range from 2.1 to 7.5 in this study. The highly sensitive areas correspond to weakly podzolized soils and carbonate deficient till/moraine with deciduous cover. A slight increase in acidity may decrease growth rates and enhance change towards more coniferous species. Intermediate sensitivities correspond to highly podzolized, acidic (granite/gneiss) soils where the pH is often less than that of the acid rain. Plants are already adjusted to acid conditions but continued leaching of the few remaining weatherable minerals reduces productivity in the long term. Low sensitivity areas are those dominated by black spruce (a very tolerant species).

Evaluation

This sensitivity rating does not assess the influence of vegetation on terrestrial sensitivity. There is no formally established relationship between soil, vegetation and sensitivity although inferences are made.