

Sugarbush Management Workshop Agenda

May 8, 2025 | 9:00 a.m. – 3 p.m. | Pine Hills Golf Course, Gresham, Wis.

- 9:00-9:30 a.m. Welcome and Overview of Agenda/Day
Maple syrup in Wisconsin: Producer interests and needs
Results of surveys from producers/interview results
Tony Johnson, Forestry Outreach Specialist, UW-Madison Division of Extension Forestry
- 9:30-10:15 a.m. Cost-share opportunities for sugarbush management
Dan Meyers, Wisconsin State Forester, NRCS, USDA
- Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)
 - Forest Management
 - Sap Processing Energy Efficiency
 - Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
 - Brief note on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
- Wisconsin Forest Landowner Grant Program (WFLGP)
Violet Thielke, Forester, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
- 10:15-10:30 a.m. Break
- 10:30-10:45 a.m. Wisconsin's Forest Tax Laws
Skya Murphy, Tax Law Policy Specialist, WI DNR
- Summary and background
 - MFL requirements and compatibility with non-timber management objectives, including maple sap and syrup
 - Considerations for compatibility of MFL with sugar bush management and maple sap/syrup production
- 10:45-11:15 a.m. Bird-friendly Syrup Production
Jacob Crawford and Thomas Prestby from Audubon Minnesota
- 11:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Managing for Forest Health and Sap Production
Mike Demchik, Ph.D., Professor of Silviculture, UW-Stevens Point
- Crown release
 - Crop tree selection
- 12:30-1:15 p.m. Lunch and Maple Judging Tutorial
- 1:15-1:30 p.m. Gather and drive to field site
- 1:30-3:00 p.m. Managing for Forest Health and Sap Production in Field
Mike Demchik, Ph.D., Professor of Silviculture, UW-Stevens Point
Maple for birds
Tree characteristics for good sap production
Marking activity, review, and discussion



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