

FOREST REGIONS



THE NINE BASIC FOREST REGIONS OF
THE EASTERN UNITED STATES

**Richard
King
Mellon
Foundation**





Biotic communities are shaped by the interaction of three factors:

- physical environment (climate, soils, aspect)**
- biotic interactions (competition, predation)**
- disturbances (fire, windthrow)**

LUCY BRAUN

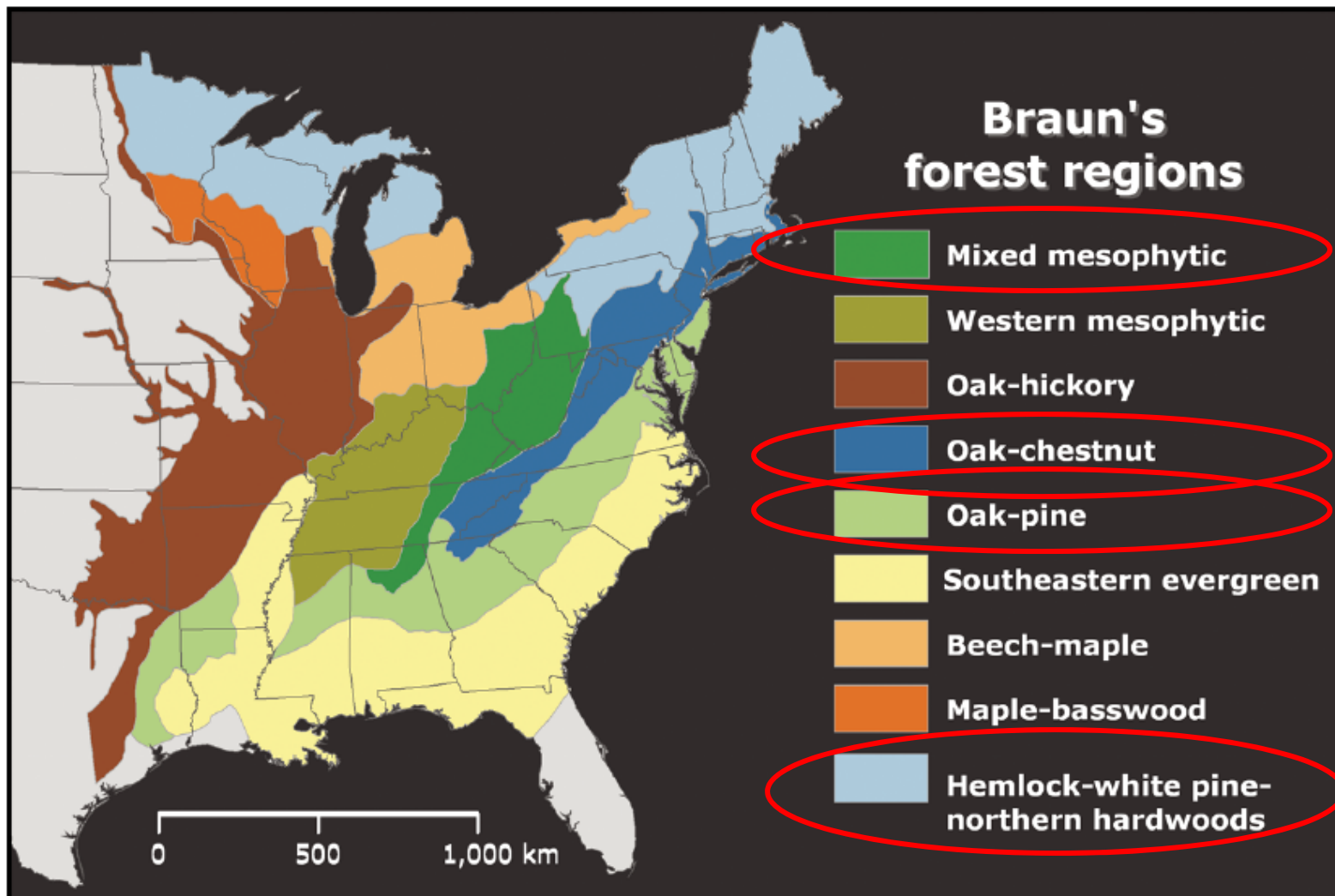


THE FOREST REGIONS OF THE EASTERN DECIDUOUS FORESTS

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1950 – Lucy Braun's Forest Regions

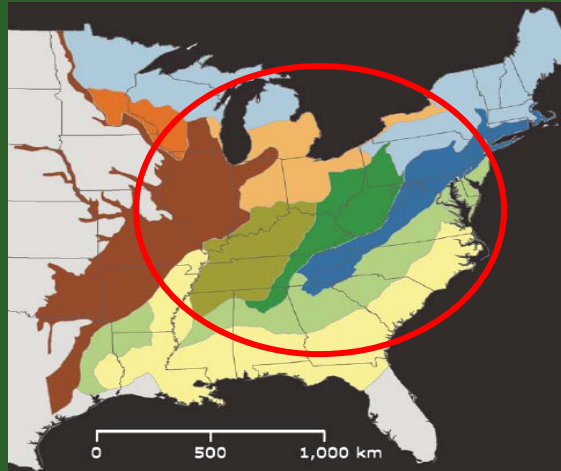


http://cnre.vt.edu/forestupdate/presentations/master_naturalist/dyer_forest_types.pdf





Mixed Mesophytic Forest Region



Canopy

- American beech
- Tulip tree
- Basswood
- Sugar maple
- American chestnut
- Black cherry
- Sweet buckeye
- Northern red oak
- White oak
- Black oak
- Red, Black maple
- Hemlock
- White ash
- Black birch
- Chestnut oak

Subcanopy

- Dogwood
- Umbrella magnolia
- Striped maple
- Redbud
- Hop hornbeam
- Shadbush
- Hornbeam
- American holly

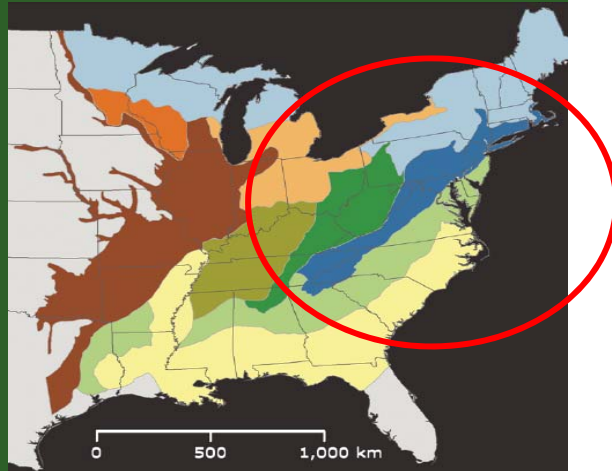


Shrub

- Spicebush
- Witch-hazel
- Paw-paw
- Hydrangea
- Alternate-leafed dogwood
- Rosebay rhododendron
- Mapleleaf viburnum



Oak – Chestnut Forest Region



Canopy

- American chestnut
- Chestnut oak
- Red oak
- White oak
- Black oak
- Scarlet oak
- White basswood
- Shagbark hickory
- Pignut hickory
- Tulip tree
- Beech
- Yellow buckeye

Subcanopy

- Red maple
- Black birch
- Black gum
- Dogwood
- Shadbush
- Hop hornbeam
- Sassafras
- Shadebush

Shrub

- Mapleleaf viburnum
- Mountain laurel
- Blueberry
- Asalea
- Rhododendron
- Menziesia
- Spicebush
- Scrub oak
- Witch-hazel

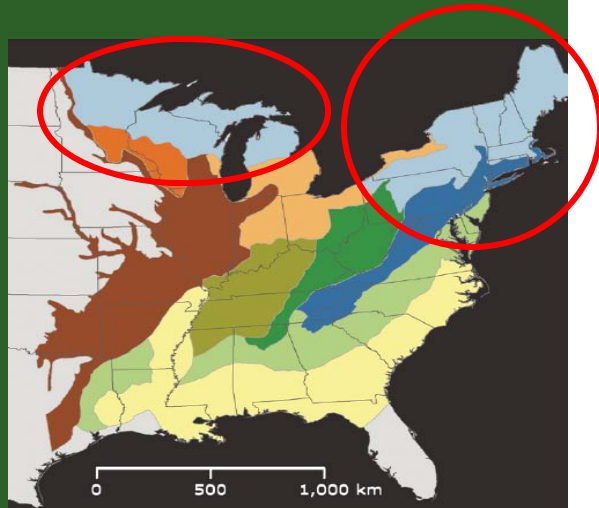


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Hemlock- White Pine – Northern Hardwoods Forest Region



Canopy

- Canadian hemlock
- White pine
- Sugar maple
- Beech
- Red maple
- Basswood
- Red spruce
- Yellow birch

Subcanopy

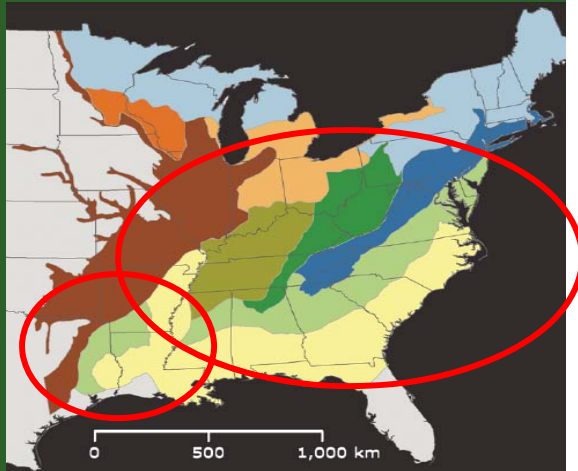
- Jack pine
- Paper birch
- Gray birch
- Pin cherry
- Striped maple
- Quaking aspen
- Mountain ash
- Shadbush

Shrub

- Canada yew
- Fly honeysuckle
- Red elderberry
- Rosebay
rhododendron
- Hobble bush
viburnum
- Mountain maple
- Mountain holly



Oak – Pine Forest Region



Canopy

- White oak
- Black oak
- Red oak
- Post oak
- White hickory
- Pignut hickory
- Sweet gum

Subcanopy

- *Virginia pine
- *Pitch pine
- *Table mountain
pine

Shrub

- Mountain laurel
- Blueberries
- Huckleberries
- Viburnums

* Mainly as
successional trees

Forest Types



18th and 19th centuries forests were cleared extensively for:

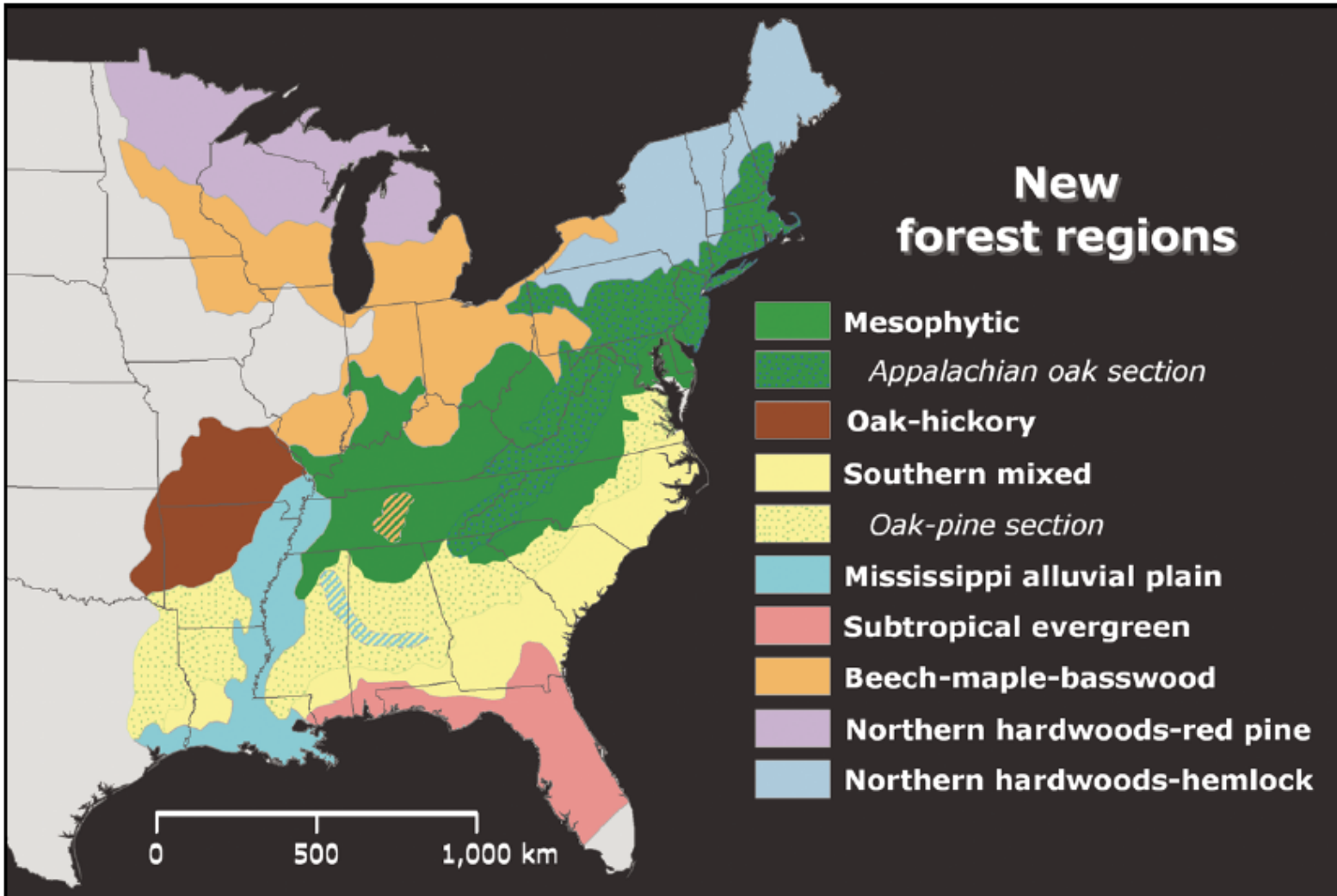
- Agriculture
- Timber production
- Fuelwood
- Urban expansion



According to 1930 US Census records, of land in farms in the eastern United States, less than 10% of total acreage was reported as nonpastured woodland (Geospatial and Statistical Data Center 2004). Now this area east of the 100th meridian is nearly 40 percent forest cover (USGS/USFS 2002).

However! Most of this forest land is successional, and quite distinct from old-growth forests.

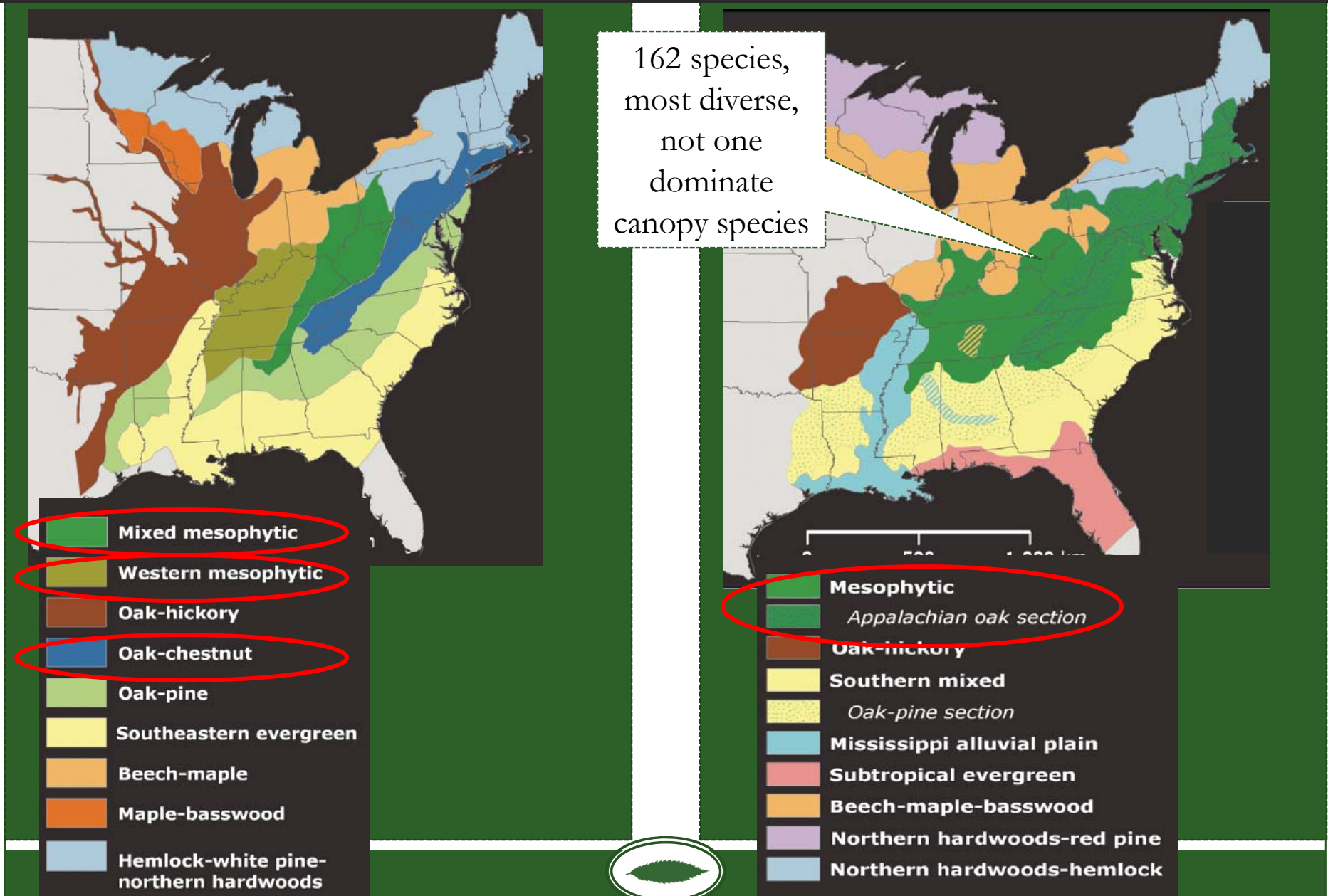
2006 – James Dyer’s Forest Regions



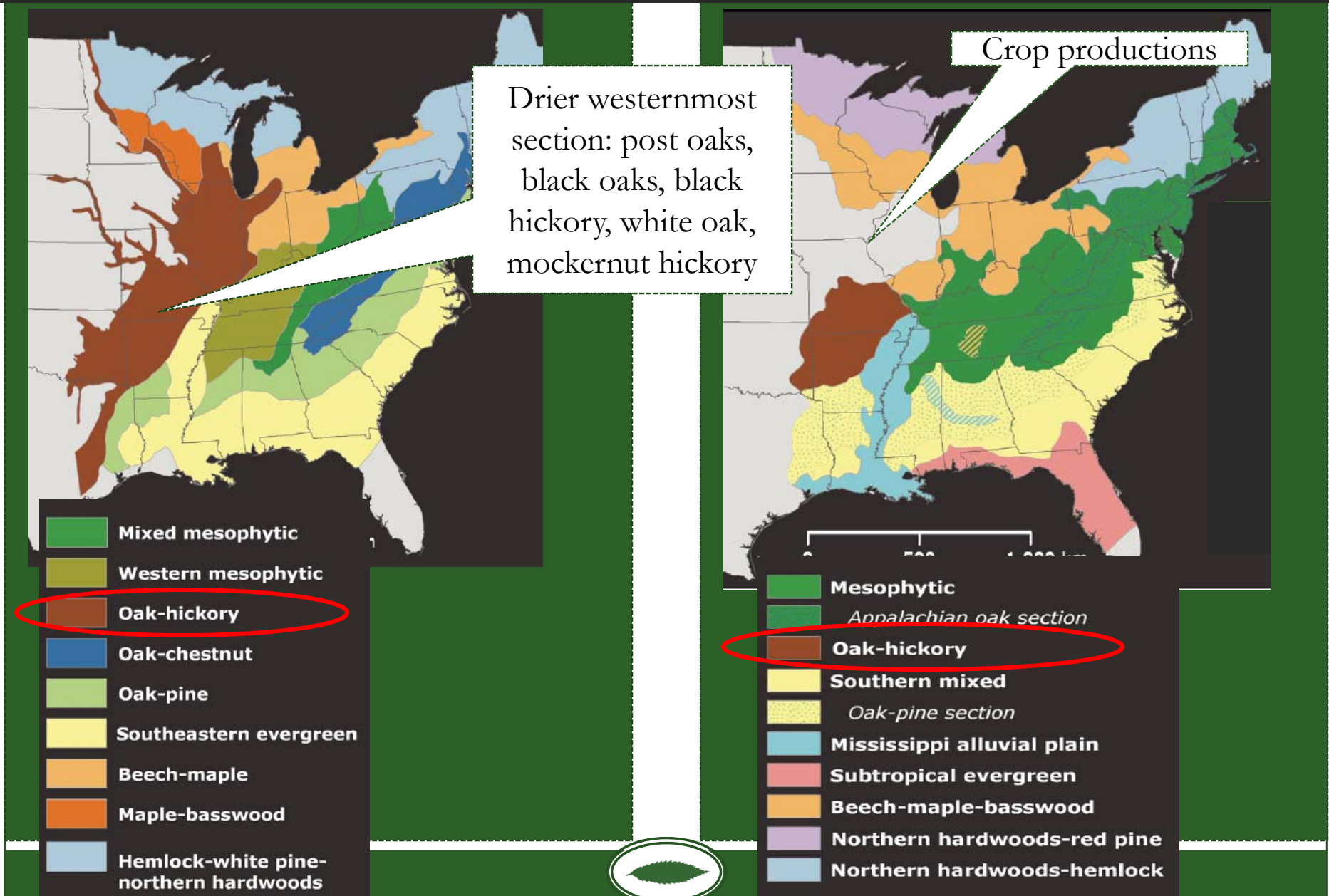
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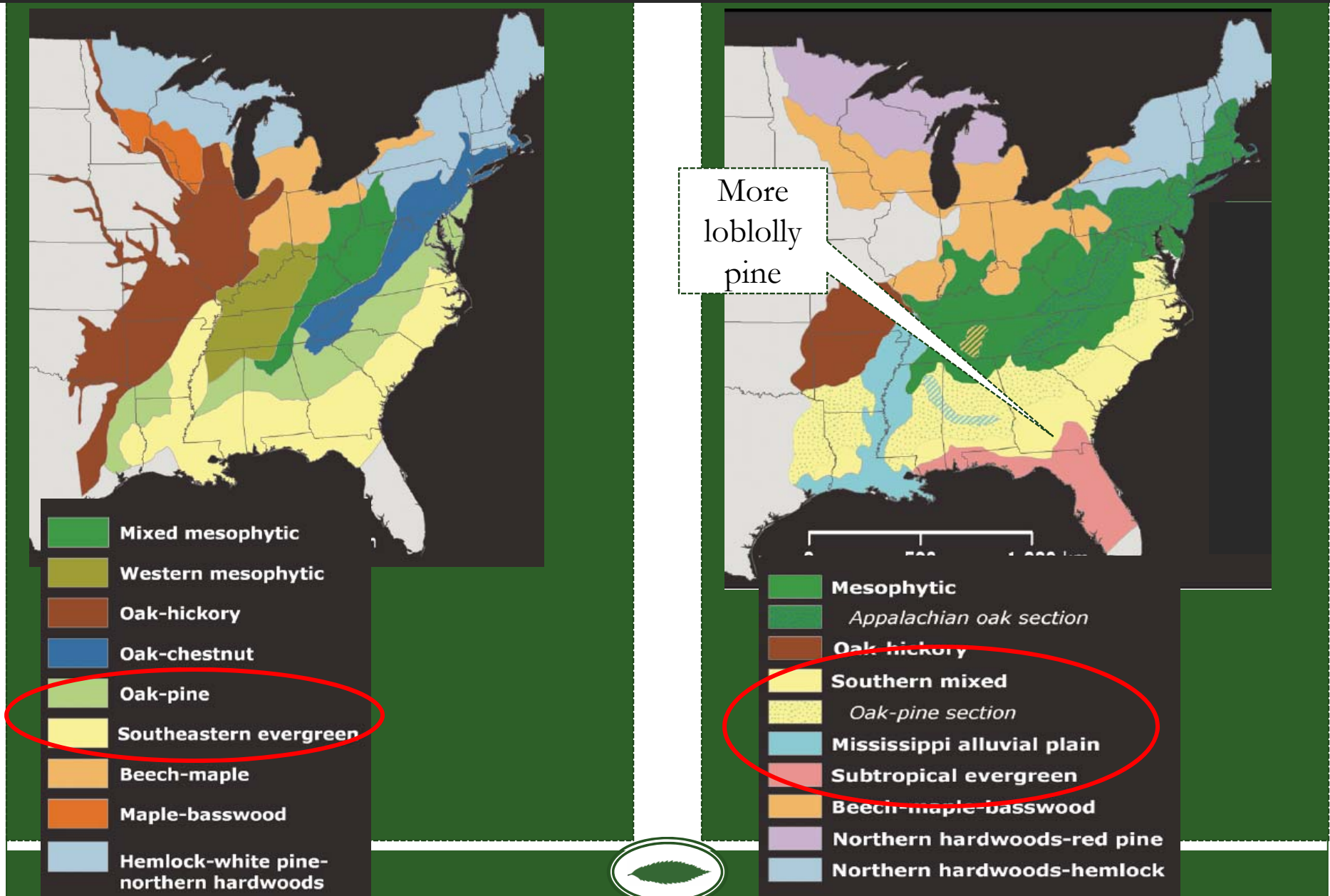
Mesophytic Forest Region



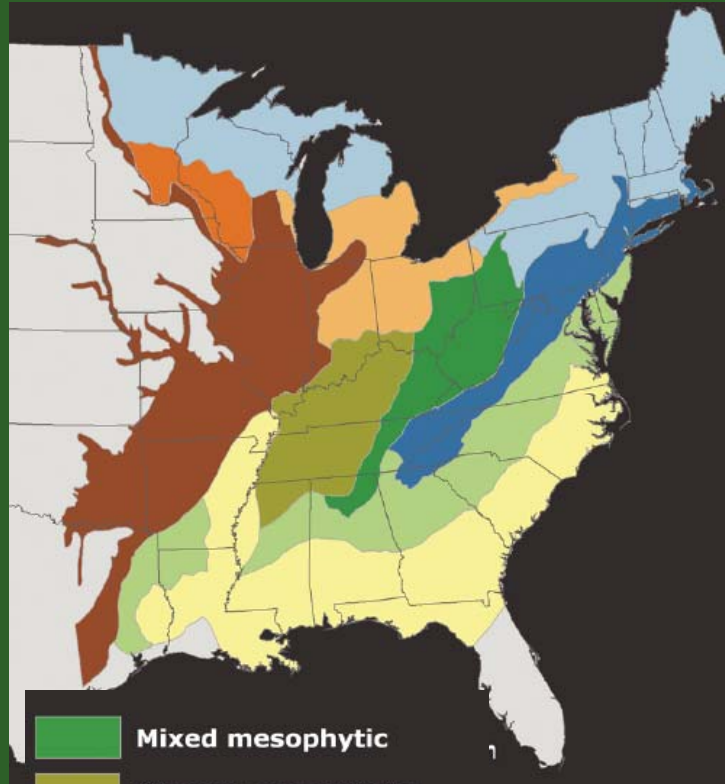
Oak-Hickory Forest Region



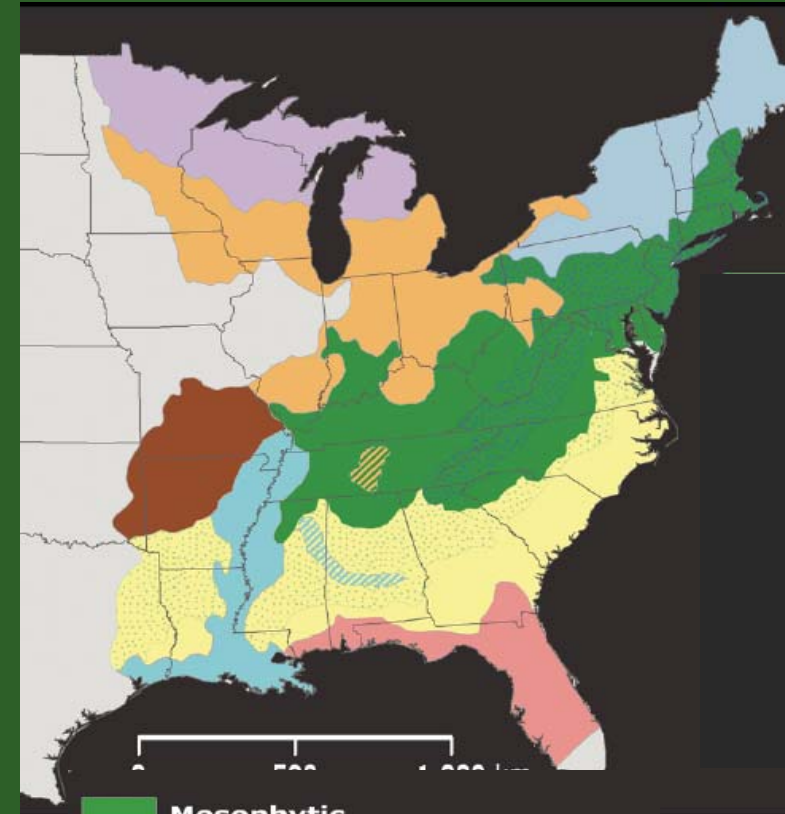
Southern Forest Regions



Beech-Maple-Basswood Forest Regions



- Mixed mesophytic
- Western mesophytic
- Oak-hickory
- Oak-chestnut
- Oak-pine
- Southeastern evergreen
- Beech-maple**
- Maple-basswood**
- Hemlock-white pine-northern hardwoods



- Mesophytic
- Appalachian oak section*
- Oak-hickory
- Southern mixed
- Oak-pine section*
- Mississippi alluvial plain
- Subtropical evergreen
- Beech-maple-basswood**
- Northern hardwoods-red pine
- Northern hardwoods-hemlock



Northern Hardwoods-Conifer Forest Regions

