

Canada's Vegetation Regions

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Vegetation Region	Types of Natural Vegetation	Temperature Characteristics	Precipitation Characteristics	Soil Characteristics
Tundra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shrubs • Mosses • Lichens • Small flowers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cold • Short growing season 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very little precipitation • Most areas less than 40mm of rain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thin soils • permafrost
Boreal & Taiga Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coniferous trees (longer growing season than tundra) • Largest vegetation region in Canada • Taiga portion is less dense and has smaller trees that take longer to grow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taiga (north) part of the region is colder and drier than the boreal portion (south) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • more precipitation than tundra 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • humus layer is very shallow • top soil is a grey colour and acidic • infertile and unsuitable for agriculture
Mixed Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • deciduous trees (maple, beech, ash, oak and birch) • coniferous trees (spruce, fir pine, cedar and hemlock) • Small shrubs (junipers) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • warm summers and cool winters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • regular and abundant precipitation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • humus: deep grey-brown topsoil rich in minerals because of the wide variety of trees • Soil is well-suited for farming
Deciduous Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deciduous trees (maple, beech hickory, ash and black walnut) • Tree need 5 months of warm weather to store enough energy in the form of sap in their roots and the trunk to survive the winters months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summers are long and hot • Winters are relatively mild 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • plentiful precipitation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Similar soil to the mixed forest with more humus and less acid (more deciduous trees) • dark brown humus-rich topsoil because of the abundant rain. • Most fertile soil of eastern Canada.
Grassland <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short Grass • Long Grass • Parkland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the eastern part of the region, trembling aspen, willow and spruce. • Grass forms a sod mat where grass can die off on the surface but roots 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Too dry for most trees to survive. (with exception to the eastern part of region) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SGP- Limited rainfall and high evaporation rates. • LGP - Increase precipitation. • Rainfall is enough to keep 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SGP- Limited amount of humus in the produced in the soil. • Without irrigation, most areas are unsuitable to crops.

	<p>remain alive until more moisture is available.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short Grass Prairies (SGP): drought-resistant short grass, sagebrush and cactus. • Long Grass Prairies (LGP): Taller grass due to the increased precipitation. Grains and oil seed • Parkland: transition zone of long grass prairie and dotted with clumps of trees 		<p>the minerals within the easy reach of the grass root</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LGP - Large amount of humus that result in rich black soil. • Richest soil in Canada, and some of the most productive grain-growing land in the world
Cordilleran Vegetation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Varies significantly (wide range of temperatures, rainfall, soil, and elevation) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wide variety of temperature 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wide variety of precipitation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soils of all types
West Coast Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lush mixed forest of Douglas fir, Sitka spruce, red cedar, western hemlock • Excellent growing conditions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mild Climate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heavy Rainfall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent growing conditions • Lush vegetation provides a lot of plant material to make humus, but the heavy rainfall leaches minerals deep into the soil