# Contents

1

Introduction 1 Historical Perspective 1 What Is a Forest Soil? 3 Forest Soils Compared to Cultivated Soils 5 Soils and Modern Forest Management 9

Forest Soils and 2 Vegetation Development 10Pedogenic Processes 11 Factors of Soil Formation 13 Parent Material 13 Classification of Parent Materials 22 Climate and Weathering 23 Biological Weathering 25 Topography, Time, and Biota 27 Vegetation Development 29 Soil Properties and Vegetation Development 30 Succession in Forest Development 31

3 Soils Associated with the Major Forest Ecosystems 35 Water Movement in Unsaturated Soils 129 Factors Affecting Infiltration and Losses of Water 131 Groundwater Table 133 Soil Water Absorption by Tree Roots 135 Hydrologic Cycle 136 Soils, Forests, and the Weather 137 Forested Watersheds 138 Water Balance Equation 139 Interception by Tree Canopies 140 Transpiration by Tree Canopies 141 Effects of Altering the Forest Cover on Water Yield 143

Possibilities for Soil and Site Management 146

### 9 Soil and Roots 148

Form and Extent of Roots 149 Root Form 150 Root Intensity 152 Biotic Influences on Root Development in Soils 153 Soil Conditions and Root Growth 154 Physical Impedance 155 Soil Moisture 156 Soil Temperature 158 Soil Chemical Conditions and Root Development 159 Contributions of Roots to Soil Properties 160

## 10 Mycorrhizae: Forms and Functions 165

Types of Mycorrhizae 166

Ectomycorrhizae 166
Endomycorrhizae 167
Ectendomycorrhizae 169

Soil Factors Affecting Mycorrhizal Development 170

Benefits Derived From Mycorrhizae 174
Silvicultural Implications 176

Methods of Inoculation 176
Cultures for Nursery Inoculation 177

11 Nutrient Cycling in Forest Ecosystems 180
 Geochemical Nutrient Cycling 182
 Nutrient Inputs (Gains) 182
 Nutrient Outputs (Losses) 187
 Short-term Nutrient Balances 190

Biological Nutrient Cycling 191 Nutrient Uptake by Trees 191 Nutrient Retention and Distribution 193 Nutrient Returns 194 Internal Transfer 201 Silvicultural Implications of Nutrient Cycling 203

#### 12 Soil Properties and Site Productivity 205

Biotic Factors 206 Stand Density 206

Genetic Differences 206 Competition Control 207 209 Disease and Insect Problems Abiotic Factors 210 Climatic Components 211 Physiographic Factors 212 Soil Components 212 Parent Material 212 Soil Depth 214 Water Table 217 Soil Moisture 217 Soil Aeration 218 Soil Nutrients 219

Interpreting Soil Factors in Site Evaluations 219

#### 13 Forest Land Inventory 222

Classification Systems 223 Evaluation and Classification on the Basis of Forest Productivity 224 Site Index 224 Ground Vegetation Types 227 Habitat Types 230 Soil Classification and Survey 234 USDA National Cooperative Soil Survey 234 Special Soil Surveys 235 237 Multifactor Classification Systems Classification of National Forest Lands 239 Soil-Site Evaluations 240 Predicting Response to Cultural Practices 242

14 Soils and Silviculture243Types of Managed Forests243Protected Wild Forests244

Exploited Forests 244 Regulated Forests 244 Domesticated Forests 244 Soil Management in Regulated Forests 245 Soil Management in Domesticated Forests 246 Extent of Domesticated Forests 246 Land Clearing in Domesticated Forests 247 Soil Preparation for Stand Establishment 251 Establishment and Tending 256 Conclusion 264

Management of Nursery 15 and Seed Orchard Soils 266 Nursery Soil Management 266 Nursery Site Selection 267 Soil Organic Matter 271 273 Fertilization Program Tree Conditioning for Transplanting 276 Biocides for Nursery Soils 278 Container-Grown Seedlings 279 Soil Management for Seed Production 281 Seed Production Areas 282 Seed Orchards 282

Seed Orchard Soil Management 282 Conclusion 285

16 Management of Problem Soils 287

Management of Dry Sands 287 Dune Stabilization 288 289 Other Dry Sands Forest Irrigation 290 291 Wetland Management Seasonally Flooded Soils 291 Peatlands 293 Permafrost 295 Strip Mine Spoils 296 Nutrient-Depleted Sites 299 299 Underplanting Conifers with Hardwoods Dinitrogen Fixation in Forests 300Other Problem Sites 303 303 Compacted Soils

Eroded Soils 303 Steep Oxisols 306 Summary 306

Tropical Forest Soils 308 17 309 Characteristics of Tropical Climates 311 Geology and Soils of Tropical Areas Geology 311 Soils 312 Nutrient Cycling in Tropical Forests 315 Traditional Systems of Soil Management 317 Shifting Cultivation 317 Agroforestry 319 Management of Tropical Soils for Forest Production 320Managing Natural Stands 321 Plantation Forestry in the Tropics 322 Firewood Plantings 325 Summary 328

Diagnosis and Correction 18 of Nutrient Deficiencies 329 Historical Perspective 329 Diagnosis of Nutrient Deficiencies 330 330 Visual Symptoms Plant Tissue Analysis 331 Soil Tests 337 340 Mineralizable Nitrogen Tests Other Diagnostic Tools 340 Correction of Nutrient Deficiencies Time of Application 345 Application Rates 348

 Fertilizer Materials and Application Systems 349 Fertilizer Sources 349 General Considerations 349 Nitrogen Fertilizers 350 Phosphate Fertilizers 352 Potassium and Other Mineral Fertilizers 356 Organic Wastes as Nutrient Sources 360 Wastewaters 360 Sludges and Manures 362 Municipal Garbage 365 Physical Properties of Fertilizer Materials 366 Granulation 366 Liquid and Suspension Fertilizers 367 Application Systems 368 Ground Equipment 369 370 Aerial Application Summary and Conclusions 374

## 20 Effects of Antropogenic Chemicals on Forest Ecosystems 376

Fertilizer Effects on Forest Ecosystems 376
 Fertilizer Effects on Tree Properties 377
 Fertilization and Water Quality 383
 Effects of Pesticides and Other Chemicals on Forest Ecosystems

Effects of Pesticides and Other Chemicals on Forest Ecosystems 387 Herbicides 387 Insecticides 391 Other Chemicals 391

Acidic Deposition 393 Effects on Forest Trees 394 Effects on Forest Soils 394

21 Effects of Fire on Soils and Site 397

Types of Fires 397 397 Wildfires 398 Use of Fire in Land Clearing 398 Prescribed Fires Effects of Fire on Soil Properties 403 Soil Physical Properties 403 Soil Chemical Properties 407 414 Soil Organisms Effects of Fire on Water Quality 416 417 Sedimentation **Dissolved** Chemicals 417 Stream Temperature 418 419 Management Implications

22 Intensive Management and Long-Term Soil Productivity 420 Second Rotation Productivity 421 Soil Disturbance, Compaction and Erosion 423 Soil Compaction 423 Soil Erosion 425 Harvest Removals and Nutrient Budgets 426 Nutrient Removal in the Harvested Crop 427 Nutrient Balance Sheets 430 Harvest Effects on Water Quality 432 Water Turbidity 433 Stream Temperature 433 Water Chemistry 435 Further Considerations for Intensive Forest Management 438 Summary and Implications 441 Literature Cited 443 Appendix A Common and Scientific Names of North American Trees 479 Appendix B Conversion Factors (For English and Metric Units) 483

Index 485