



MAPLE SYRUP

DIGEST



Vol. 27 No. 1

February 1987

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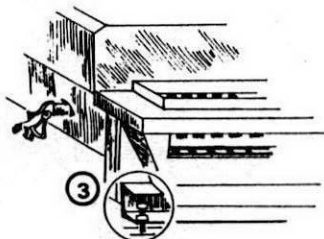
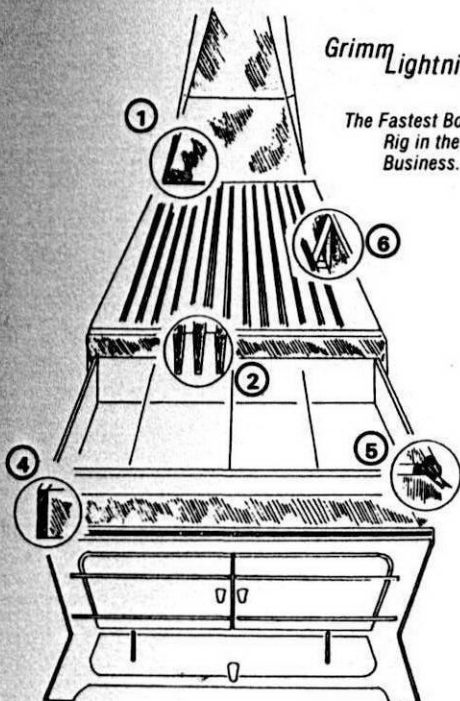
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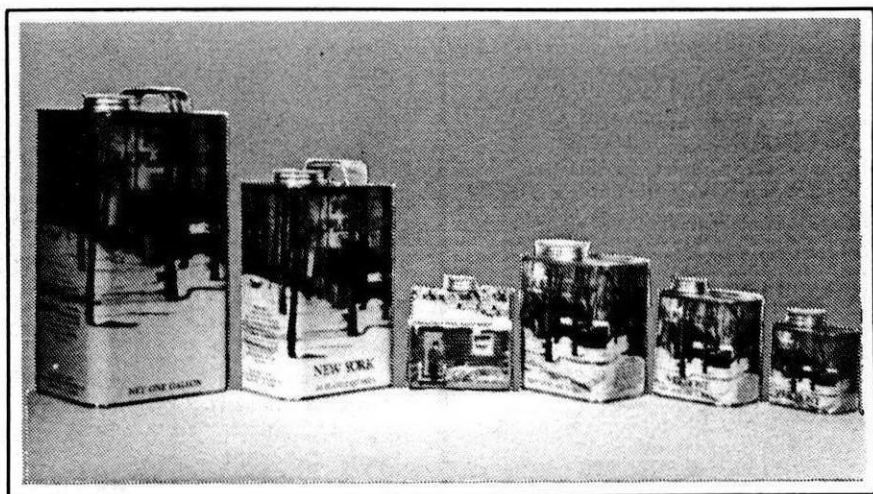
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MAPLE SYRUP DIGEST

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NORTH AMERICAN MAPLE SYRUP COUNCIL

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EDITORIAL

IMPORTANT SUBSCRIPTION NOTICE

While checking off association mailing lists last Fall, I noticed many of our readers haven't kept their subscriptions up to date. I was going to take them out but decided to wait until after February issue. I certainly don't want to cut off anyone who wants to receive the Digest, and this would give them another warning.

While we have a record of all subscriptions and when they run out, we don't want to send out bills for renewals. The Digest is operating in the black and this added expense shouldn't be necessary. Since about everyone pays by check, your checkbook will tell you when you paid and for how long.

So-use the record in your checkbook to determine if you're due or over due and how much. If your subscription needs attention, use the enclosed, self addressed envelope in the center of this issue and send your check today. We're

NOTICE

Reminder. Research proposals for consideration at the 1987 annual meeting must be received by July 1, 1987. Please increase the number of copies of each proposal from six (6) to twenty (20). For form and procedure of submitting, reference is to page 18, February 1985 issue of the Maple Syrup Digest. Lynn Reynolds, Secretary, NAMSC.

going to have to up-date our list before the July issue.

All associations except Vermont now support the Digest. If you belong, you're taken care of. Also, if you sent cash or don't have a record for some other reason and send money when you don't need to, we'll add it on to your subscription.

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SAP PRICES

Since the price of syrup increased so much this year we really don't know what syrup price to base the sap price on. We hope the two prices we have selected will at least be helpful.

Please remember, this chart is published to be used only as a guide and the Digest in no way intends that it should dictate the price paid for sap by any producer.

Retail	\$24.00	\$28.00
Wholesale	18.00	21.00
Sap Brix	¢/gal.	¢/gal.
1.5	.037	.043
1.6	.055	.064
1.7	.07	.08
1.8	.084	.097
1.9	.097	.113
2.0	.109	.126
2.1	.12	.139
2.2	.129	.15
2.3	.138	.16
2.4	.147	.171
2.5	.155	.18
2.6	.164	.19
2.7	.172	.20
2.8	.18	.209
2.9	.188	.218
3.0	.196	.227
3.1	.204	.237
3.2	.212	.246
3.3	.22	.255
3.4	.228	.264
3.5	.236	.274
3.6	.224	.284
3.7	.252	.292
3.8	.26	.302
3.9	.268	.311
4.0	.276	.320

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COMING EVENTS

West Oxford Syrup Festival, Swearing, Ont., Canada, Mar. 29 & 30, 1987.

Maine Maple Sunday, March 29, 1987, Rain or Shine.

Elmira Maple Syrup Festival, Elmira, Ont., Canada, April 4, 1987.

Andover Maple Festival, Andover, New York, April 4 & 5, 1987.

Somerset Co. Maple Festival, Meyersdale, PA, Apr. 4 & 5 and 8 through 12, 1987.

Marathon Maple Festival, Marathon, N.Y. April 4 & 5, 1987.

Vermont Maple Festival, St. Albans, VT, April 10, 11 & 12, 1987.

Elmvale Maple Festival, Elmvale, Ont., Canada, April 11, 1987.

Geauga Co. Maple Festival, Chardon, OH., Apr. 23 through 26, 1987.

Franklinville Maple Festival, Franklinville, N. Y. April 25 & 26, 1987.

Endless Mountain Maple Festival, Troy, PA., April 25 & 26, 1987.

Perth Festival of Maples, Perth, Ont., Canada, April 25, 1987.

Potter - Tioga Maple Festival, Coudersport, PA, May 2 & 3, 1987.

Maple Syrup and Craft Festival sponsored by The Exchange Club of Chatham, NY, Chatham Fair Grounds, May 2, 1987. 10 AM - 4 PM.

Scoharie Co. Maple Festival, Jefferson, N. Y., May 2 & 3, 1987.

Wisconsin Maple Festival & Antique Museum, Reynolds Plant, Aniwa, WI, May 30, 1987.

28th annual meeting of the North American Maple Syrup Council will be held in Duluth, Minn., Oct. 22 - 24, 1987.

MAPLE SYRUP PRODUCTION WORKSHOP

Sponsored by Cooperative Extension
Cooperative Extension is sponsoring a "hands on" Maple Syrup Production workshop. The workshop will be held Saturday, February 14, 1987 from 10 am to 3 pm at the Knox Town Hall,

Knox, NY. (Rt. 156, South of Altamont, NY)

This educational workshop is designed for maple syrup producers with less than 5 years experience. The program will also be helpful to people interested in starting a maple syrup operation. We will be indoors at the Knox Town Hall for the first hour and a half, then move outdoors to visit two nearby maple syrup producers. (Bring a brown bag lunch).

Topics will include: tubing, buckets, tree tapping, woodlot management for maple production, marketing and syrup storage.

Lewis Staats, maple production specialist of Cornell University and maple syrup producers Erwin King and Tom Wolfe will be the speakers. Gerald Andritz, DEC regional forester will also be present to answer questions.

There will be a \$3.00 fee to cover the cost of educational handouts, coffee and doughnuts. Wear appropriate clothing as we will be outdoors.

Please preregister by calling Cooperative Extension of Schenectady County at 372-1622.

Co-sponsored by the Cooperative Extension Associations of Albany, Saratoga, Rensselaer and Schenectady Counties.

VERMONT MAPLERAMA

The 1987 Vermont Maplerama will be held on July 17-18 in Addison County with registration taking place at the "Main Event" in Middlebury. Meal and exhibits, also a speaker, will be at the above mentioned place. Tours of the county sugar houses and a chicken barbecue at our Field Days Fair Grounds are planned.

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COVER PICTURE

This issue we have a picture loaned to us by Bob Lamb. It was sent to him by G. C. Dixon of Oakland, Md., and shows his sugarhouse located in Gorman, West Virginia, on February 2nd, 1977.

That was a very poor year as explained in a letter accompanying the picture. A part of that letter is as follows: "That apparently smooth pasture in the foreground actually has better than 3ft. of snow on it, and that is where it was partially blown away. The drums are on 6 x 8 stringers so you have to allow for that in the depth picture. That was settled snow we picked up about 16 in. after that. I know, in spite of all we had we could not compare with your situation. When we were getting 6 to 8 inches of snow, Western New York was getting 12 to 18 so I guess we do not have too

much to bitch about. Can show you dozer marks on trees 16 to 18 ft. up between here and Rt. 50 and they were made with a D9 at that".

In a letter he wrote this past year he said, "I'm 90 years old and have been at it a long time but this season was a total disaster. No surprises, had our sugar making weather in December and January. It turned out as expected, winter up through February and broke the first week of March with 2 or 3 little mediocre runs and summer hit the last week of March. Lasted long enough to foul everything up and then about 2 weeks of ideal sugaring weather about mid April. I should have tapped them again and taken chances on the proceeds. A couple did and I've seen worse."

"The sap was thin, and I mean thin. First few cookings took 60 gal. and that is why there was no Fancy. Took

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forever to get it to syrup and the weather was so warm it was half cooked by the time it got to camp. All in all a mess."

"Here in Maryland we have our drivers license on a 4 year system. Mine was up for renewal this year and I did not know what kind of hassle I was going to have owing to age. I turned in required documents and while I was waiting guess the girl went over my record. When my turn came, she said judging from my record I had had quite a few of them. When I started I sent them \$2.00 by mail and that system went so long that card was worn out by the time they needed more money and called them all in to revise their list. She said if I would give the girl up the line \$6.00 she would fix me up for 4 more years. I told her if she was still there I would be back 4 years from now for another. She said, 'I'm pretty sure you will.' Then when I went to get my picture, she told me to give her a nice smile and I asked her who the hell would be

smiling when they had to produce their card for a trooper. We let it go without the smile."

Wishing you the very best
G.C. Dixon

Mr. Dixon has been a faithful subscriber to the DIGEST ever since it started. He has written me several letters but we have never met. A tour visited his place after the Council meeting at Blackwater Falls, W. Va., several years ago, but I was unable to attend. I certainly hope I will be able to meet him sometime soon. He sounds like a wonderful person. Ed.

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GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Three important events of '86 -- short maple harvest, better prices, and our decision to fund additional research with our one cent per container check-off will, I think, have a significant influence on '87.

Hopefully '87 will be a good season with profitable prices and the decisions we will make on research projects prove to be beneficial.

Sincerely
John Kroll

P.S. I'm doing quite well and truly appreciate all the concern for my full recovery. Your card of encouragement was super!

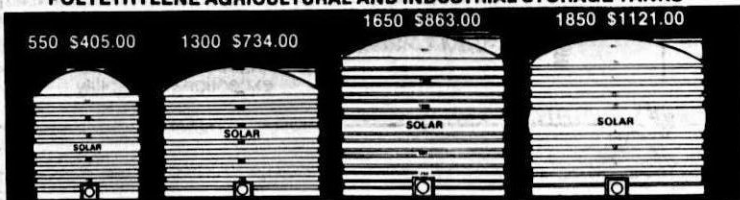
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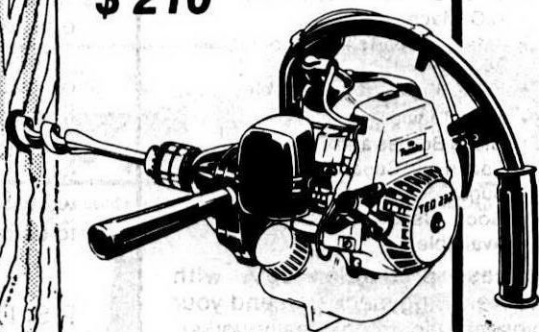
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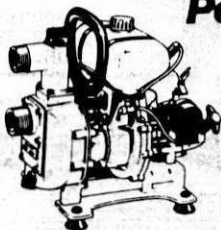
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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Friends,

The American Maple Museum will establish its 10th anniversary in 1987. There has been a tremendous growth over this ten years. We now have our own building--Thanks to the Lambs. Each year we make improvements to the building as funds are available. Our goal is to continue to improve the building and displays to make the museum more enjoyable to our visitors.

The museum is for everyone associated with maple production and maple marketing. This is shown by the large geographic area represented by inductees into the Hall of Fame.

The local maple producers are working very hard to raise funds to operate the museum and make capital improvements. They also work hard to promote the museum to the public.

For several years we received some federal aid to help hire a curator. This no longer is available therefore we have

an added expense.

At the present time the majority of our income comes from fund raising events. The New York State Maple Producers Association is giving a part of their yearly dues to the museum to help with the expenses.

We would like to ask that other maple associations throughout the United States and Canada provide support to the American Maple Museum. This could be done like New York State with a portion of each members dues earmarked to the museum or you could consider a yearly donation.

I hope your Association will discuss the possibility of assisting the American Maple Museum in any way you can. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns relating to this matter.

Hoping to hear from you in the near future.

Hugh Worden, President

Les Lyndaker, Treasurer

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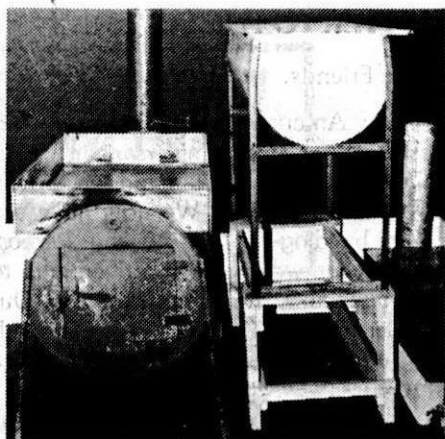
by Fred Schneider

Of the several evaporators on display at the Museum, only one was made here in Croghan. Manufactured by Reuben Yousey, it is labeled, "Croghan Evaporator Company, Inc., Croghan, N.Y. Number 1." Mr. Yousey made it with a single pan over an arch built from a 55 gallon drum and with a 20 gallon sap storage tank.

Built for Perry Farney, it was used for 2 years until he decided to build a larger operation in his sugar bush. The Croghan evaporator was set up in the Farney's back yard where they produced 15 gallons of syrup the first year and 17 the next.

After the sap was boiled down, it was finished on the kitchen stove and while it made excellent syrup, it was slow with daily production at about 2 quarts.

The sap from some 40 taps was collected with a sleigh drawn by the Farney's snow mobile. Perry said, "There was about 3 feet of snow and when the sleigh runners would break through, the station cans would fall off but the covers stayed on so we didn't



Croghan Evaporator Company, Inc., Number 1. On Display in the American Maple Museum.

lose much sap.

Farney's sugar bush is near Belfort and the sap was transported to Croghan in a tank on the pickup truck. After the second year, they decided to build a sugar house and got a larger evaporator.

A lot of maple producers started in similar back yard set ups but after the bug bites, they do as Perry and Shirley did and build more efficient operations.

The Croghan Evaporator Co., Inc. Number 1 is on loan to the Museum by Perry and Shirley Farney of Croghan.

NEW YORK MAPLE PHOTO CONTEST

Sponsored by the Central New York Maple Producer's Association for the promotion of the New York State Maple industry.

RULES:

1. Picture must show some phase of maple production.
2. Picture must be taken by person submitting entry.
3. Amateur photographs are encouraged.
4. Color picture or color slide acceptable.
5. Contest open to all residents of New York State.
6. Photo/slide becomes property of Central New York Maple Producer's Association.
7. Entries due by May 1, 1986
8. Prizes - 1st, \$35.00; 2nd, \$25.00; 3rd, \$15.00.
9. Send entries with your name, address and telephone number to William Campbell, Smyrna, NY 13464.
10. Judging will be based on originality and quality.

THE 1987 AMERICAN MAPLE FESTIVAL

by Fred Schneider

May 16 is the date set for the annual American Maple Museum opening and festival. Starting at 7:00 AM with an all-you-can-eat pancake and sausage breakfast in the Museum dining room with pancakes made by Pres. Hugh Worden.

Following the breakfast, the selection of a New York State Maple Queen will take place in the dining room along with the induction into the Hall of Fame of 2 people who have made outstanding contributions to the maple industry.

At 1:30 PM the maple parade will take place on Main Street in the Village of Croghan with bands, floats, horses and, of course, the new Maple Queen and her court.

Outside the Museum there will be exhibits of modern and antique maple equipment and the interesting little Village of Croghan. Along Main St. one can find an old fashioned soda fountain at Wishey's store and the unique Marilley's store just to name 2 of our many shops.

A chicken bar-B-Q after the parade will help fill any empty stomachs and will be available at the Museum dining room.

One of the highlights of the Festival will be the selection of the New York State Maple Queen. To be eligible, contestants must:

1. Be a resident of New York State.
2. Be between the ages of 16 and 21.



Rev. Norman Evans with his oxen, Buck and Flash, and New York State Maple Queen Rebecca Buell and her court in the 1986 Maple Parade.

3. Be a daughter of a maple producing family, or of an employee of a maple producer, or someone who is sponsored by a maple producer, having spent at least twenty hours of service in his or her sugarbush.
4. Give a 2 to 3 minute presentation, oral or written, topic of own choosing relating to maple syrup production.

Judging will include appearance, poise, presentation and knowledge of maple syrup production. It is hoped that each district or association will sponsor at least one or two contestants. Monetary awards will be given.

Application forms may be obtained by writing; Martha B. Company, Box 82, Beaver Falls, NY 13305

Please mail requests by April 1, 1987.

Here at the museum we are looking forward to a large crowd and good weather (we hope).

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A GREAT TASTE OF MASSACHUSETTS

A few years ago the Mass. Department of Agriculture in an effort to promote Massachusetts grown and produced commodities, sponsored a "Taste of Massachusetts Seminar at the State House in Boston. This was to be a way to introduce home grown produce to the legislators and other members of the staff. This was a great success and eventually led to the logo "Mass. Grown and Fresher". Of course maple was there. The Mass. Maple Producers Assoc. participated by presenting a table of maple goodies and knowledgeable people to answer questions. Dessert was local ice cream and pure maple syrup.

As years went by the Maple Association received promotion funds from the Department of Food and Agriculture to be matched by the Association. Probably the best use of this money was to help equip and staff the Maple Booth in the Massachusetts building at the Eastern States Exposition. Although Massachusetts maple has been represented for many years at the "Big E", the last

couple of years have shown the most progress.

Because of the fine acceptance of the Maple Booth the Association was given a larger space. We have learned that the public likes to see action as well as have a taste of the product. This year half the space, about 15 feet of counter, was used in the production of maple sugar candy, maple spread and making maple cotton candy. A ten gallon electric steam kettle was used to boil down the syrup for the candy and spread. A ten inch electric fan located on the counter behind the kettle blew the sweet essence of boiling syrup out over the crowd. This aroma would carry clear around the building. The use of a candy maker to fill rubber molds was of great interest to the viewers. Removing candy from molds, drying it on racks and packaging it in six different units from one third ounce to a full pound was all done before the people.

Maple spread was being made and packaged all during the twelve day fair. Many questions were asked about the process and how the different products could be used. In the middle of the booth stands a sugar maple tree that drips

"sap" every September from an iron spout into an old metal bucket. This is a very popular exhibit. The other half of the booth is used for selling and sampling maple products. Bits of Maple sugar candy were offered free and maple spread was served on crackers. Samples of syrup were offered in tiny sample cups. All of these made the booth very popular.

Maple products for sale were: six sizes of maple candy, halfpound and pound sizes of maple spread, five sizes of Grade A Medium Maple Syrup and probably the best money-maker was maple cotton candy. When things slowed down we would make an extra effort with the free samples. Also we Found that the sale of a certain product could be increased by judicious use of the free samples. Incidentally, all syrup was sold in plastic containers and only four people requested tin cans.

The real reason for this booth is to promote Massachusetts Pure Maple Products and therefore it was not important to make a profit. We figure that 15 gallons of syrup was given away as free samples and we still made a nice profit. The attendance for the fair was well over a million people and we are sure we saw our share.

In order to have a successful booth a great deal of planning must be done. Staffing is the most important. Two people are hired as managers for the twelve days. Two to four volunteers are signed up for each six hour shift. Saturdays and Sundays require one or two extra people on each shift. Sign-up sheets are at the Summer picnic for people to sign for the shift they would like. A notice is sent to all producer members with the prices the association will pay for light and medium syrup. About a week before the fair the syrup is brought to a central point where it is all graded, given a taste test and accepted to be used at the fair. Light amber is

used only for candy and spread while the medium is mixed and bottled at the central point so all the syrup offered at the fair is the same. We must commend our producers for saving their best syrup for this event. It was exceptional this year. Also we must commend the volunteers who helped staff the booth. Any successful venture depends on the enthusiasm and labor of all involved. Our President, Jim Graves, and his family gave extra time and effort which was greatly appreciated. Mass. Maple Coordinator, Rick Chandler, also gave an extra measure of support.

So, for a couple of weeks in September the Massachusetts Maple Producers are doing their thing and giving many thousands of people a very "Great Taste of Massachusetts".

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ONTARIO REPORT

by Bill Robinson

The Ontario Association had their booth set up again this year at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto. The sales of Maple product were quite good considering the increased cost of product. The prize winners for Maple Products were: Premier Exhibitor (highest total points) Ross and Lois Steed, Frank Robson Trophy (4-H Exhibit) Andy Dawson, Indian River.; O.C. Grimm Trophy--Clifford Curtis, Quebec; C.P. Corbett Trophy--Ross and Lois Steed, Indian River; Commercial Display First--Shaw Maple Products; Second--Ross

and Lois Steed; Third--Paul's Maple Products.

The Decembers Directors Meeting of the Association had our new President, Bob Jakeman of Beachville as Chairman. The 1987 Summer tour is to be held in Lanark County, July 24-25, 1987. The 1987 Annual meeting will be held in Pembroke on September 25-26, 1987. The 13 Maple Information Day meetings are set up for the month of January. The Marketing and Promotion Committees of the Association had ordered 100,000 plastic shopping bags and another 5,000 copies of the cookbook "Tempting Treats". The recipe pamphlet is being reprinted with 125,000 copies ordered.

The best news is that our association has hired a part-time secretary manager. George Sinclair of Maple is our new Secretary Treasurer. The address for the Ontario Association will be Box 877, Maple, Ontario L0J1E0 Telephone 416-832-2543.

An up coming Maple sap processing workshop to be held at Kemptville College at Purvis Hall February 13, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

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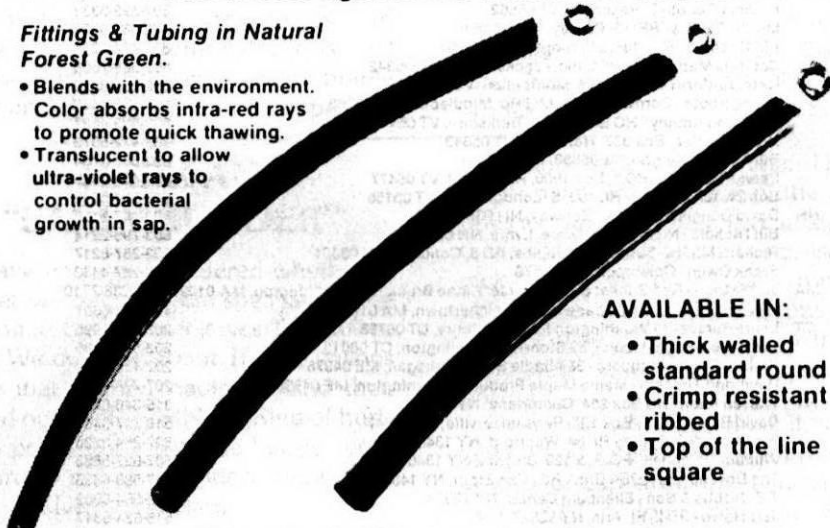
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	Polak's Sugar Bush - Rt. 2, Merrill, WI 54425	715-536-4032

MAPLEFEST '87

Word has been received that the maple producers of the province of New Brunswick will be holding their first annual Maplefest this June. The international event will feature seminars, technical workshops, field tours, equipment exhibitions, product displays and fun and games.

The setting will be the scenic village of Grand Falls, overlooking the Saint John River a few miles from the Maine border.

The theme of the two-day event will be maple dieback. In the morning of Friday June 12, specialists involved with the problem from Quebec, Ontario and New Brunswick will be featured at the Maple Update Seminar. The afternoon will feature a field tour to maple bushes in nearby Plaster Rock, to look at and discuss the problem first-hand. An evening of displays, equipment exhibitions, slides, videotapes and "new" product demonstrations will follow, including sampling of maple wine and champagne and an opportu-

MARK AN "EARLY BUDDER"

Have you ever wondered whether to gather sap after a warm spell late in the season not knowing if it was "buddy" or not? We dumped about 10,000 gallons once that we had hauled in and then found out it was worthless. Kind of hurts your pocketbook because buddy syrup is hard to sell at any price. Here's one way to solve the problem.

First, you need to mark an "early budder." About a week or two after the close of the season start watching the buds on the sugar maples. At a certain time you will notice on some trees the leaves are about half out and the others haven't started yet. You'll have to be on your job because you only have 2 or 3

ity to mingle informally.

On the following day, visitors will be offered the choice of technical workshops, fishing, a tour of the Falls, or be on their own to shop or take in the sights. After the traditional pancake lunch, the Maple Olympics (New Brunswick style) will be held.

The two-day affair will conclude with a banquet and dance Saturday night.

Accommodations, banquet and seminars are being booked at the well-appointed Pres Du Lac Motel, which features a pool, sauna, and well-equipped exercise room.

Simultaneous translation facilities will be in place for both the seminar and field tour, providing all information in both of New Brunswick's official languages, English and French.

The event is being co-organized by the New Brunswick Maple Producers Cooperative and the provincial Forest Extension Service. For further information contact Don O'Brien at the Forest Extension Service, R.R. 10, Fredericton, NB, Canada E3B 6H6 (506) 453-3711.

days and then it's too late. Using a bright paint, mark 3 or 4 of the earliest ones to make sure you have at least one that's still running late in the season and pick them as near your home as possible to make it more convenient. They should also be selected from an early area - low elevation, southern exposure.

Next year, when you think it might be getting buddy you can pick up a quart or two of sap from the earliest "budders," boil it down on your kitchen stove and you'll soon know if it's all right or not. Buddy syrup smells sort of acidic and has a sickening taste that's hard to describe.

This won't help you any this year but it will next year and every year after that. An early "budder" is always an early "budder".

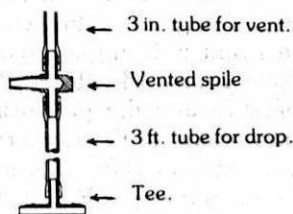
TAP ROOTS

A Tubing System for Beginners

Tubing isn't just for large, commercial producers. Many backyard operations with only a few trees are making good use of the economy it affords. Here is a simple system that will be good to start with.

I'll use the vented, semi-aerial system for 3 reasons. It can be used on level land where sealed systems cause trouble. The vents will tell you if anything is wrong, such as obstructions or overloading, and it will produce as well as sealed systems.

First: Make up one "drop" assembly for each tap like this:



Second: Tap trees about 4 ft. high and lightly tap spile into hole.

Third: Hook up tees on multiple tap trees with an 18 in. length of tube.

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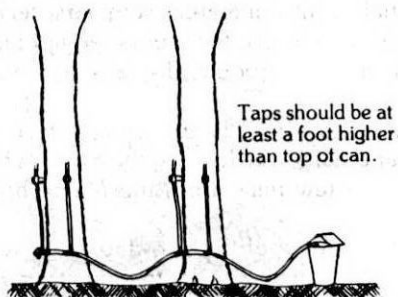
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Hook trees together with enough tube to "drape" between trees. The farther you extend the line and pick up more trees, the higher the taps should be - 2 to 4 feet over top of can.



This system will work equally well on one tree or up to 50 taps on level land using all 5/16 in. tubing up to 400 ft. long.

Some "grade" is established on longer lines by tapping higher the farther you get from the tank, sometimes up to 7 ft.

Be sure the tube between trees just "drapes". This will eliminate vapor locks that will obstruct flow. If the tube is too long it may have some high spots between trees that will cause vapor locks.

After the sap starts running, you will notice the laterals and drops will always be full of sap up to the level of the top of the tank. This is all right because the sap from the tree is quite aseptic and the sunlight penetrating the tubing helps kill bacteria. If any sap comes out of the vents or even rises up around the spile you will know the line is overloaded or obstructed somewhere.

Tubing is especially good for a producer who may not be able to gather sap every day. A larger tank will eliminate overflow. Three gallons capacity per tap is a good size to start with and will usually hold a two day run. However, don't make a practice of letting it stand very long. You just can't beat gathering every day to make the best syrup.

*it
boils down
to one
thing...*



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THINNING GUIDES FOR DEVELOPING DESIRABLE SUGARBUSH TREES

BY

Nancy G. Voorhis

Northeastern Forest Experiment Station
Durham, NH 03824

Current guidelines for maximum production in older sugarbushes recommend practices that will result in trees that are fast-growing and have deep, wide, fully developed crowns exposed to maximum sunlight (Walters 1982). However, guidelines for cultural practices in young stands and thinning schedules leading to desirable trees in the shortest time are not available. This study looked at three thinning intensities in such a stand and uses the results of that study to produce guidelines for developing sugarbushes.


A 15-year-old stand of sugar maple in an abandoned pasture on a loam soil near Randolph, Vermont, was used for

the study.

An average of 57 crop trees per acre were selected at 15- to 20-foot intervals along parallel lines running through the study area. The crop trees selected were vigorous dominant or codominant trees free from obvious defects and diseases. The average diameter of the crop trees was 2.6 inches and the average height was 27.8 feet. Within this group, trees were randomly assigned to one of three treatments: no treatment (the control group), a light thinning, or a heavy thinning.

Thinning treatments consisted of removing all competing stems from the area surrounding the crop tree to a

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4-foot radius (light thinning) or a 10-foot radius (heavy thinning). These distances were measured from the stem of the crop tree outward to the crown of adjacent trees. Trees that had major branches extending into this thinning area were also removed. Before thinning and five years later, measurements were taken for stem diameter, crown width, total height, and height to crown breakup (groundline to point in crown where stem begins to fork).

There were significant differences in diameter growth between treatments. The control group (no thinning) grew 0.38 inch in the 5-year period while light thinning (4-foot radius) resulted in 0.49 inch growth. Heavy thinning (10-foot radius) increased growth by 0.68 inch during the same period. Trees that were larger at the beginning of the experiment increased in diameter more rapidly than those with smaller diameters regardless of treatment. This is consistent with observation in older stands of sugar maple (Trimble 1969).

Total height growth was not significantly affected by the treatments, which

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is also consistent with studies of many species. Thinning changes diameter of residual stems, but not height growth. Height to crown breakup was fairly consistent for all treatments but varied considerably for individual trees within treatments, indicating that this is a trait that will occur regardless of the treatment applied to a stand. The reason for looking at this crown feature included the possibility that smaller branches below the main crown would develop into major crown components with increased sunlight, and that the stem would begin to fork earlier with the wider spacings. In this particular stand, all of the trees were forked at some point along the stem when the final measurements were taken.

Crown diameters increased as the intensity of the thinning increased. The heavy thinning released all diameter stems and our calculations indicate that if the average crown growth continues at the same rate, space should be available for unimpeded crown expansion for 20 years after heavy thinning. Trees with the greatest height growth are also the trees with the greatest increase in crown width. Height growth is a genetically controlled trait that is already well defined in trees of this age. Height growth also reflects the site so that selecting the tallest trees on the best microsites should result in better crown growth and optimum utilization of the

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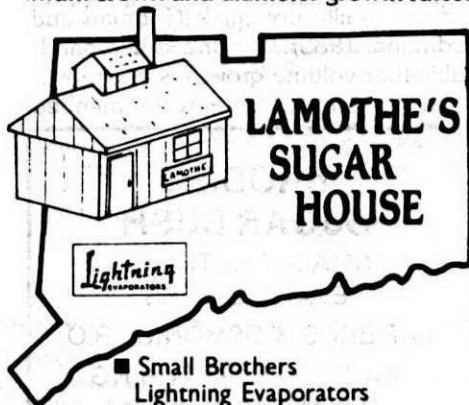
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site.

The objective of treating young stands intended for sugarbushes is to maximize diameter growth and crown size while minimizing the development of underbrush and mortality of the potential crop trees. The appropriate size of the thinning circle around crop trees depends on the initial size of the trees and the desirable length of time between thinnings. Tables of thinning schedules were constructed (Table 1) to show combinations of initial tree size and thinning radii that will allow maximum crown and diameter growth rates.



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The light thinning used in this study was generally too light to be effective on trees of this initial size. Choosing a thinning radius that requires thinning every 10 to 12 years should eliminate excessive underbrush, allow for some mortality, and minimize thinning costs. Maintaining such a regular schedule will require an increase in the thinning radius at each thinning. For example, a stand of 4-inch diameter trees could be thinned using an 8-foot-radius circle. If the diameter increases to 6 inches in 10 years to 12 years, the next thinning would be a 10-foot-radius circle.

Growing sugar maple for sap production and high quality lumber may not be compatible and the landowner should be aware of this. Thinning to grow trees capable of producing high-quality logs requires higher stacking levels than are suggested for sap-sugar goals. Even light thinning at this early stand age will reduce quality potential (Godman and Erdmann 1983). On the other hand, cubic-foot volume growth is not reduced at the stand densities recommended

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Table 1. Number of years between thinnings for different radii.

Dbh ^{2/} range (in)	Thinning radius (ft) ^{1/}			
	4	8	10	12
0.6-1.5	3	18	26	33
1.6-2.5		15	23	30
2.6-3.5		12	20	27
3.6-4.5		9	17	24
4.6-5.5		6	14	21
5.6-6.5		3	11	18
6.6-7.5			8	15
7.6-8.5			5	12
8.6-9.5				9
9.6-10.5				6

1/ Thinning radius is measured from the stem of the tree to be thinned to the crown edge of the nearest remaining tree. This method of estimating radius is used because of the irregularity of tree spacing and size in naturally regenerated stands.

2/ Diameter 4 1/2 ft. aboveground.

for sugarbush management, so thinning will probably produce fuel, fiber, and rough-lumber products.

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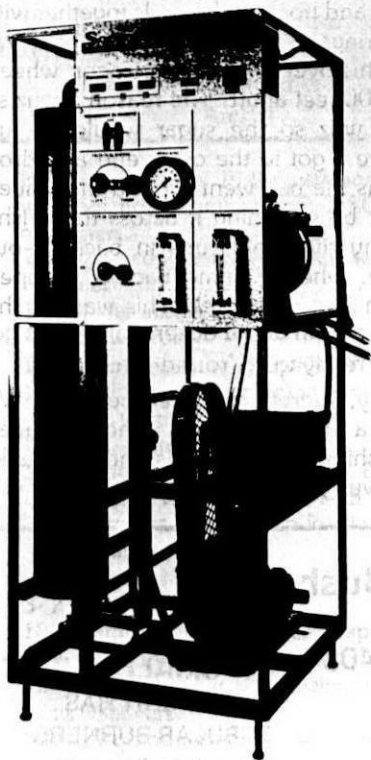
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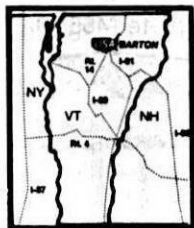
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Dear Mr. Editor:

My wife, she sez, "Honest Archie," sometimes she calls me Truthful Archie, "why don't you tell that nice Mr. Editor man about our maple sugar business?" Well, it wuz like this:

Wards and Sawbuck is the biggest mail order company in the world, and the year we got a contract to furnish them with gift boxes of maple sugar cakes we thought we better be prepared. First we needed a mixer.

Our local concrete company had a ready mix truck for sale that wuz too small for them. It only held 3 yards but we thought that would be big enough so we bought it. To clean it up, we put in 50 cases of Pe-Cola soft drink (this stuff will eat up most anything) and started her up. After about a half hour that tank looked slicker than an eel in an oil can.

Boiling enough syrup for a batch was no problem. We made a syrup pan 2 foot deep so it wouldn't boil over, and

big enough to fit one of our 6 x 20 evaporators. We figured 400 gal. of syrup would just about make 3 cubic yards of sugar.

Now enough molds to hold that much sugar wuz another problem. All we could afford wasn't nearly enough so we cut them into strips one cavity wide and hooked the ends together with hog rings to make an endless belt. We ran this over a couple of wagon wheels set 200 feet apart. The reason it wuz so long wuz so the sugar would set up before it got to the other end and drop out as the belt went around the wheel. Also, by stretching it across the Wishy Washy river that runs in back of our place, when it came back it dropped down into the water. This washed the molds clean and a dozen hair dryers got them ready to go 'round again.

Boy, everythin worked perfectly. We filled a 45' semi trailer in no time at all and shipped it to Wards and Sawbuck. We wuz just thinking of expanding our

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operation when they terminated the contract. Said there wuz fish in the sugar. After a close investigation we had to agree. Ya see, them little baby lam-prey eels in the river liked the taste of that maple sugar on the molds and it's awful hard to wash them off once they get stuck on.

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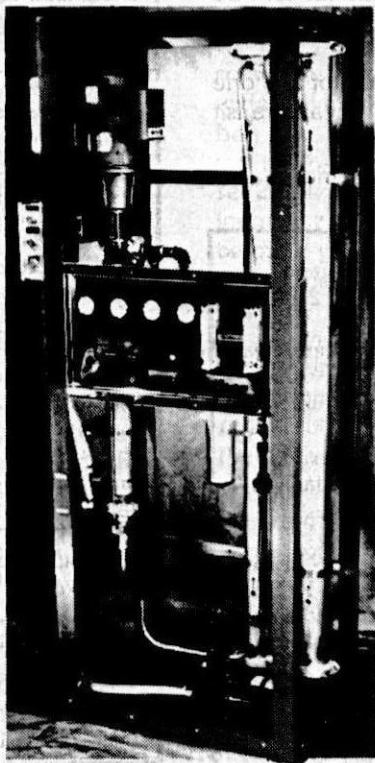
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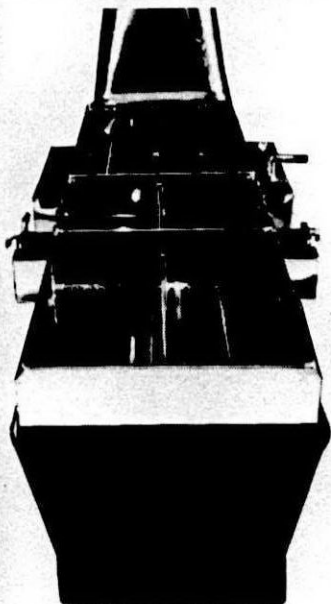
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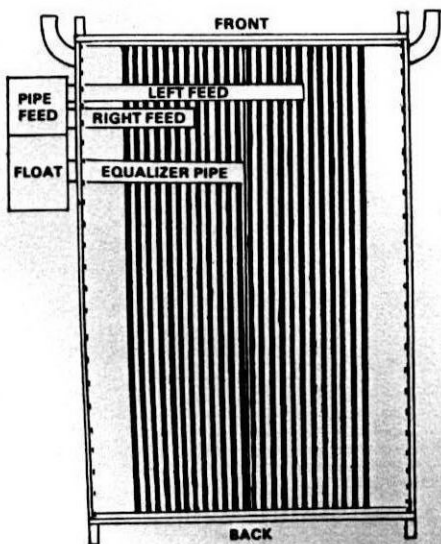
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