

Quaking Aspen - American Hazelnut Forest

Site Characteristics: Stands occur on gently rolling, poorly drained topography with a high water table. The water table is usually high but not high enough to affect the composition of the ground layer or to allow peat formation

Vegetation Characteristics: The mature trees in this community form an open to closed canopy. The canopies of individual trees usually touch, but because of the growth form of the dominant species, quaking aspen, significant light penetrates the canopy. The understory is dominated by shrubs, especially American hazelnut, downy arrowwood, and serviceberries. The other species that make up the shrub layer vary with site factors such as soil moisture. The herbaceous layer is composed of species that can survive in the shade cast by the taller strata.

Range:

Conservation Status: G5 - Secure

Management Considerations: This community is an early successional stage. In the absence of disturbance, most sites of this community will evolve into forest types dominated by what are currently minor components of the canopy.

Iowa NRCS Plant Community Description

This community description is a compilation of the Community Association and its over-riding Community Alliance descriptions as provided by NatureServe (www.natureserve.org/explorer). Where necessary, community descriptions were adapted as recommended by Iowa plant community experts.

12/17/2015

FOREST, ASPEN - AMERICAN HAZEL						
SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	STRATA	FUNCTIONAL GROUP	IA CofC	SEEDS/LB	STATE STATUS
<i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i>	Northwestern serviceberry	Shrub Layer	SHRUB	10	60,051.00	SC
<i>Amelanchier spp.</i>	Service Berries	Shrub Layer, Dominant	SHRUB			
<i>Aralia nudicaulis</i>	Wild sarsaparilla	Herbaceous Layer	SUB-SHRUB	8	99,000.00	
<i>Betula papyrifera</i>	Paper birch, canoe birch	Canopy, Co-dominant	TREE	6	1,380,800.00	
<i>Carex pensylvanica</i>	Pennsylvania oak sedge	Herbaceous Layer	P-SEDGE, COOL SEASON	6	480,000.00	
<i>Cornus spp.</i>	Dogwood	Shrub Layer	SHRUB			
<i>Corylus americana</i>	Hazelnut	Shrub Layer, Dominant	SHRUB	3	480.00	
<i>Corylus cornuta</i>	Beaked hazel	Shrub Layer	SHRUB	10	549.00	
<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica lanceolata*</i>	Green ash	Canopy, Co-dominant	TREE	1	14,320.00	
<i>Maianthemum canadense</i>	Canada mayflower	Herbaceous Layer	P-FORB	8	49,411.00	
<i>Maianthemum Stellatum</i>	Starry false Solomon's seal	Herbaceous Layer	P-FORB	5		
<i>Oryzopsis asperifolia</i>	Rough-leaved rice-grass	Herbaceous Layer	P-GRASS, COOL SEASON	10	92,664.00	SC
POPULUS BALSAMIFERA	Balsam poplar	Canopy, Associate	TREE	*	1,889,968.00	
<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	Quaking aspen	Canopy, Dominant	TREE	2	3,600,000.00	
<i>Prunus virginiana</i>	Choke cherry	Shrub Layer	SHRUB	2	4,971.00	
<i>Quercus ellipsoidalis</i>	Hill's oak, Northern pin oak	Canopy, Co-dominant	TREE	4	245.00	
<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>	Bur oak	Canopy, Co-dominant	TREE	4	64.00	
<i>Rubus spp.</i>	Blackberry	Shrub Layer	SUB-SHRUB			
<i>Salix spp.</i>	Willow	Shrub Layer				
<i>Sanicula marilandica</i>	Black snakeroot	Herbaceous Layer	P-FORB	5	51,319.00	
<i>Schizachne purpurascens</i>	False medic	Herbaceous Layer	P-GRASS, COOL SEASON	9		
<i>Symphoricarpos occidentalis</i>	Wolfberry, buckbrush	Shrub Layer	SHRUB	0	75,033.00	
<i>Thalictrum dioicum</i>	Early meadow-rue	Herbaceous Layer	P-FORB	8	116,800.00	

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SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	STRATA	FUNCTIONAL GROUP	IA CofC	SEEDS/LB	STATE STATUS
<i>Tilia americana</i>	Basswood, American linden	Canopy, Co-dominant	TREE	5	4,765.00	
<i>Ulmus americana</i>	American elm	Canopy, Associate	TREE	2	68,000.00	
<i>Viburnum opulus americanum</i>	Highbush cranberry	Shrub Layer	SHRUB	10	12,992.00	
<i>Viburnum rafinesqueanum</i>	Downy arrowwood	Shrub Layer, Dominant	SHRUB	8	12,900.00	
<i>Viola spp.</i>	Violet	Herbaceous Layer	P-FORB			

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