



CAES Seminar Series

“Mixing applied and basic research - crop tree management”

Dr. Jeffrey Ward

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Wednesday, February 17, 2016
12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m.

Food and coffee will be available at 11:45 a.m.

Jones Auditorium
The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station
123 Huntington Street, New Haven, CT

Crop tree release is an alternative forest management prescription that has been shown effective for 30-60 year-old oak stands. However, the efficacy of this technique for young (<20-yr-old) and mature (>100-yr-old) oak stands was unknown. I initiated studies in young stands in 1988 and in mature stands in 2003 to examine (1) the applied research question of whether stand growth and/or composition was improved and (2) the basic research question of why the observed changes occurred. These studies found that crop tree management improved stand composition, but not growth, by reallocating growth onto more economically and ecologically valuable oaks. The response of oaks was directly proportional to the degree of release from competition and was greatest for those in the codominant crown class.