

**NIPS** NEWS & NOTES ON THE MAPLE INDUSTRY



## UPDATE ON PLANTATION MAPLE RESEARCH BY UVM

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UNDERHILL CTR., Vt. — For several years researchers at the UVM Proctor Maple Research Center studied the feasibility of collecting sap from saplings as an alternative production method for maple syrup.

Either a plantation of saplings or groups of young trees in a sugarbush needing to be thinned were appropriate for

use to collect sap with this approach.

While the method showed promise and was eventually awarded US Patent US10412906B2 and other associated patents, the devices (“sap caps”) needed to harvest sap from saplings have remained unavailable since no equipment manufacturers have licensed the technology or offered a product for sale.

One question that was frequently asked was about recovery of trees.

These photos show the same group of saplings that

were studied for this method after removing the tops for research for three successive years and recovery after several additional years without topping.

Regrowth typically is vigorous in an open plantation setting – less so under a forest canopy where light (fuel for photosynthesis) is more limiting.

Researchers at UVM continue to field questions about this work. More information on sap collection from small-diameter trees (plantation method) is available at: <https://mapleresearch.org/pub/m1016smalldiametersap/>