| **Parameter** | **Guidance for LEMP Plot Locations** |
| --- | --- |
| Slope | The land slope should be less than 35% |
| Soils | Plots should be located on well and moderately well drained sites, on the most common soils of the GMNF. These soils are:   * Stratton, Glebe, Londonderry * Rawsonville, Houghtonville, Hogback * Lyman, Tunbridge, Berkshire, Marlow * Peru, Mundal   When possible locate plots in NRCS Benchmark soils, due to potential for sharing funding of soil chemical analyses. The Benchmark soils are: Berkshire, Marlow, Peru, and Tunbridge.  Do not locate plots in the Taconic Mountains, since they only occupy 2% of the GMNF. |
| Vegetation | Seek to locate plots in stands over 80 years old, with little to no disturbance during the last 30 years. Examples of disturbances are: logging, timber stand improvement, ice damage, wind damage, old roads, and insect & disease. Favor sites with no non-native invasive species. |
| Ecological Land Units | Focus plots in the 5 dominant Ecological Landtype Groups on the GMNF–   * Spruce mixed –spruce-fir * Northern Hardwoods – Spruce * Northern Hardwoods * Oak-Northern Hardwoods * Hemlock-Northern Hardwoods |
| Roads and Trails | As much as possible, plots should be at least ¼ mile from gravel roads, ½ mile from paved roads, and at least 3oo feet from trails. Distances greater than these are even more desirable. |
| Hiking Time | Hiking time to access a plot should not exceed one hour, once workers leave a parked vehicle. |