| **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
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| 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. |