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As the diagram below shows, plant communities change over time in a process called succession. It's important to remember that succession is ongoing and cyclical in nature. Changes will still occur after the community reaches the mature stage shown in the drawings. Both major disturbances (such as hurricanes, wildfires, or prescribed fires) and minor disturbances (such as several trees dying due to disease or being thinned by a forester) will bring different results to the landscape.

## STAGES OF FOREST SUCCESSION





## CAREER CORNER | LOVE MY GREEN JOB

FOREST BIOTECHNOLOGISTS use science and genetic engineering to test new ways to develop wood products and to make forests more sustainable. They must be creative and innovative, as well as detail oriented.

