

SECONDARY SUCCESSION

What happens in the environment after the end of the mining activities?

After the mining and charcoal production end, the forests are less extensive and more sparse than before it began, with open spaces alternating with wooded areas. Little by little, vegetation returns to occupy the deforested areas.

Here, over time, different groups of plant and animal species, called communities, come together. Each community changes the characteristics of the soil and the availability of sunlight. Thus, little by little, the environment becomes favourable for new species, which can coexist with the previous ones or gradually replace them. This process is called ecological succession.

An ecological succession can be:

PRIMARY

When starting out on previously unvegetated areas.

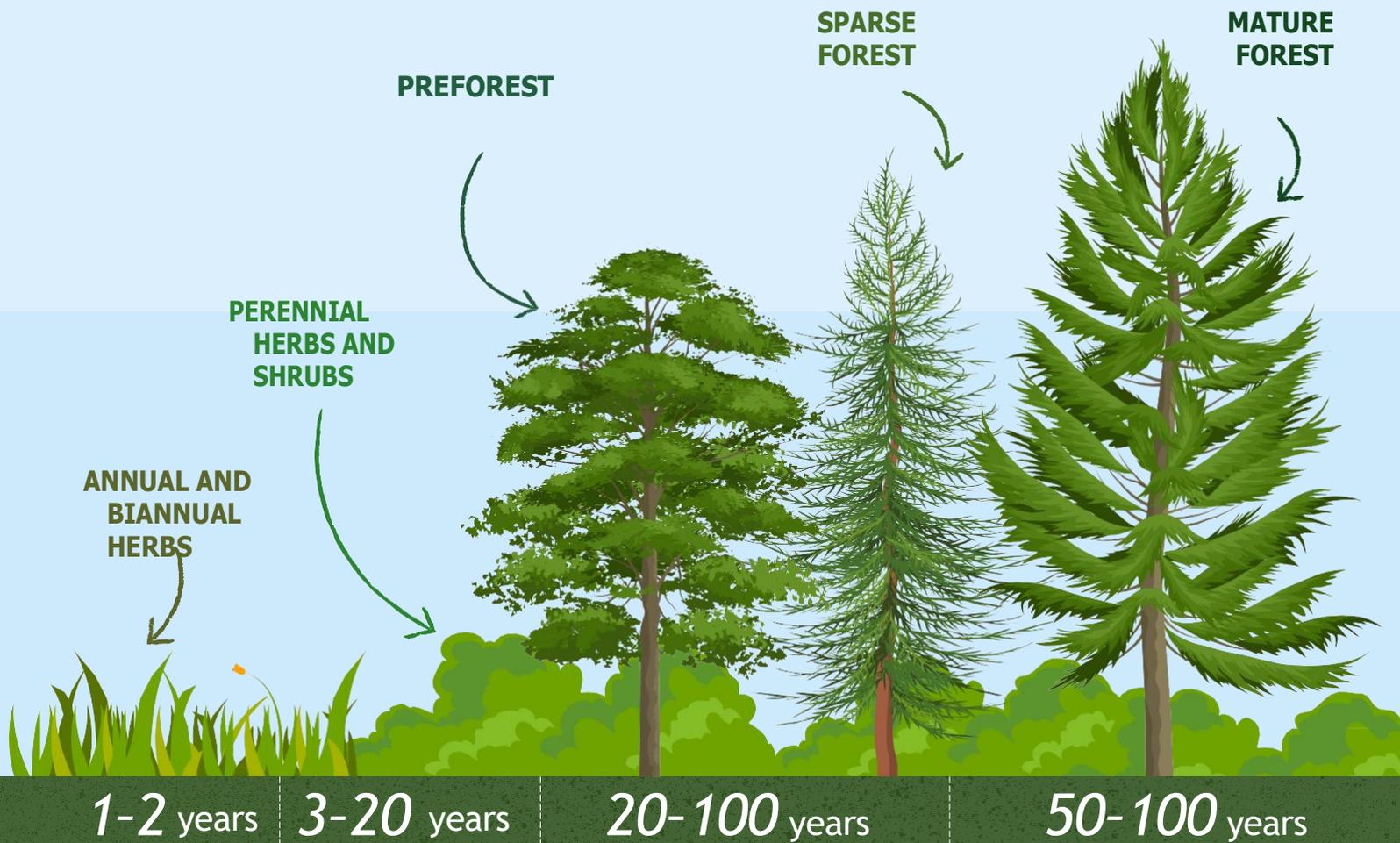


SECONDARY

when starting out on previously wooded areas where the vegetation is carried away due to special events (e.g. natural disturbances such as fires).



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Characteristics of the vegetation

Pioneer species: fast growing, long-lived seeds that the wind carries over great distances.

Intermediate species: fast-growing, sun-loving, tall stem, ten-year life cycle, ability to disperse seeds over large distances.

Climax community: slow-growing, tall. The combination of species present tends to remain STABLE over time.

Climate change results in new climax communities different from those present before mining-related cuts.

Environmental changes

Nutrients in the soil increase.

The soil becomes more acidic, shading increases.

Vegetation seeks a balance with the conditions of the climate (temperature, rainfall), soil, etc.

Example: Mont Avic

Herbs

Herbs and shrubs

Mountain pine between 1,200 and 2,200 m asl, Scots pine at medium and low altitudes.

Scots pine, mountain pine and larch at high altitudes.

Mountain pine, Scots pine, larch at high altitude, beech at lower altitudes.

