

# Chapter 20: Decay Classes

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## 20.0 Decay Classes

Using the decay classes (below) from Malcolm Hunter's Wildlife, Forests, And Forestry (1990), Prentice Hall, New Jersey, surveyors are required to enter Decay classes for lying deadwood in transects and for standing deadwood within plots.

### 20.1 Standing deadwood

During the assessments of Mensuration Plots (Circular or Whole Section) all dead stems  $\geq 4\text{cm}$  DBH are recorded. Using the diagram overleaf select which Decay class (top row of diagrams) the standing stem relates to (3 – 7).

### 20.2 Lying deadwood

During the Lying Deadwood assessments all dead stems  $\geq 7\text{cm}$  diameter where they cross the transect line are recorded. Using the diagram overleaf select which Decay class (Log Decomposition, 2<sup>nd</sup> row of diagrams) the lying deadwood relates to (1 - 5).

### 20.3 Stumps

When assessing the stump nearest the plot centre/point assess the decay class from the top diagram below using classes 8-9.

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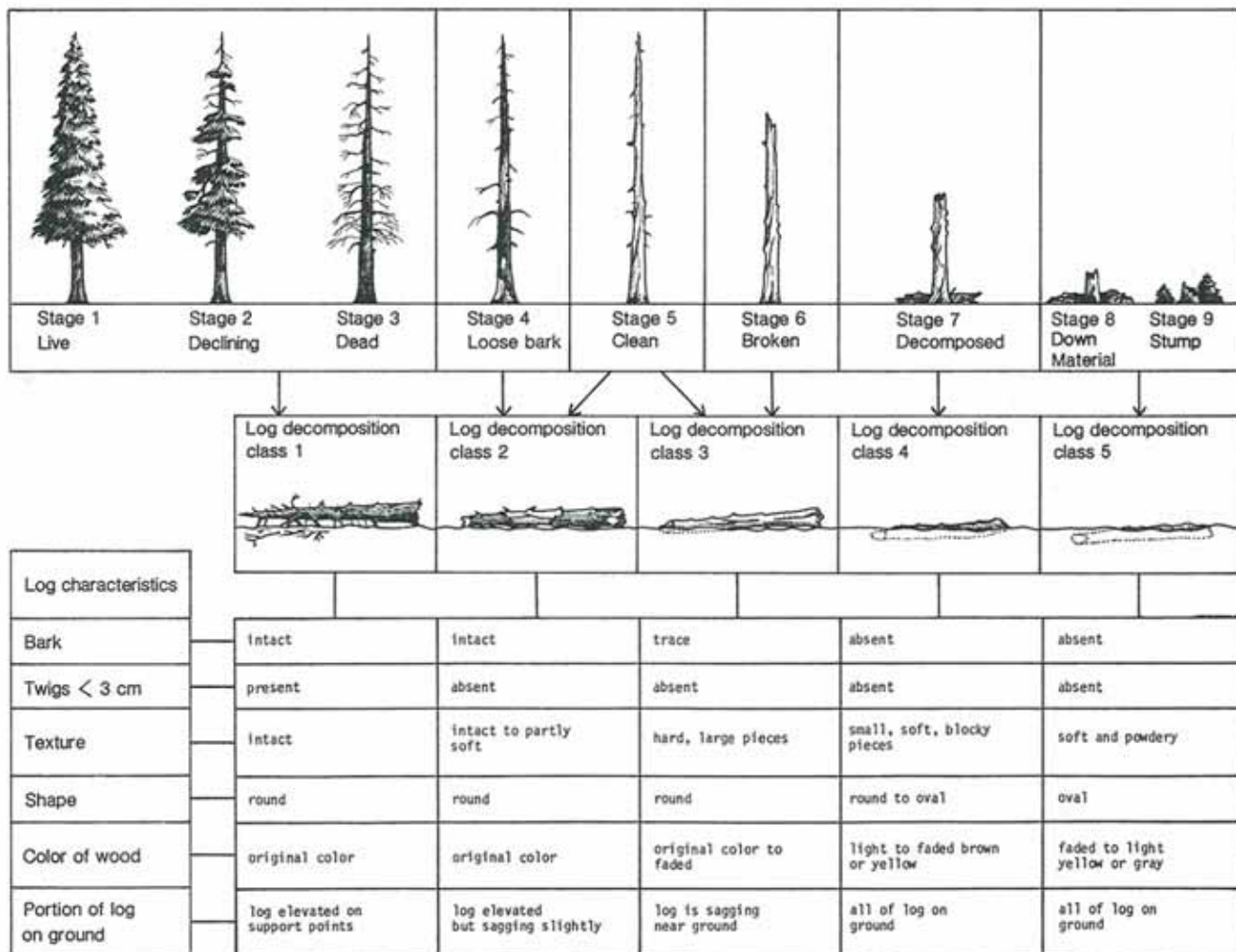


Figure 20 - 1: Decay classes in Standing and Lying deadwood (from Hunter (1990)).