

Pigs cleaning the maple lot.



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The pigs in this photo are part of a group of 52 in our Southwest Pig Pasture.

They are Poland China hogs. The Poland China breed was developed in Ohio around 1816. This American breed is a combination of many breeds including Polish pigs, Hampshires, Berkshires and an obscure breed called Big China.

The pigs are devouring ALL the green plants in a small lot of young maple trees. In three days, they will have consumed the above ground material. Grasses, weeds and brushy seedlings. I will then move them out before they do extensive rooting.

I want them to clean the area but I do not want them to dig the roots of the maple trees. The trees are just getting big enough for maple sap production.

I allow them to graze in this woodlot for a short time each spring.

Soon their designated pasture will be ready. I planted a combination of grasses, legumes and brassicas for them several weeks ago. We will rotate them through their pasture in small segments throughout the growing season. With good weather, they will have fine grazing until November. Best regards. Tom