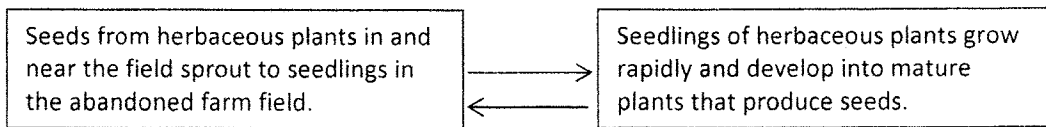


1. Use the information from the graph to complete this table.

Year	Main type of plant you would see	Other types of plants in the field
Last year of farming	Farm crop (e.g. corn)	Some weeds (e.g. grasses, goldenrod)
5 years after farm field abandoned		
60 years after farm field abandoned		

2. Explain why there are no or very few tall trees in an abandoned farm field in the first decade after the field is no longer farmed.

During the first decade after these farm fields had been abandoned, most of the area was covered by herbaceous plants that grow and reproduce rapidly and grow well in full sun. This flowchart shows how these herbaceous plants became common in these abandoned farm fields.



3a. By 40-60 years after farm fields had been abandoned, the amount of herbaceous plants decreased. Give one reason why the amount of herbaceous plants decreased as the amount of trees increased.

3b. The types of herbaceous plants changed at different times during succession. For example, ragweed (which grows well in full sun and completes its life cycle in one year) was very common in the first year after a farm field was abandoned, but less common in later years. In contrast, wild strawberry (which can grow in partial shade and grows back each spring from its roots) was more common in years 25-40. Explain the likely reasons for these changes in the types of plants at different times during succession.