# Georgia Forest Facts

## **GEORGIA'S FORESTLAND**

The total land area of Georgia is 37 million acres. 24.5 million acres is considered to be forestland... that's 2/3 of the state! Of this 24.5 million acres, of Georgia 23.9 million acres are available for is forests commercial use ...that's more than any other state! GA's Three FIA Panel Results - 2002

## **COMMERCIAL FORESTLAND OWNERSHIP**

Of the 23.9 million acres of commercially available forestland, individual citizens (private nonindustrial landowners) own the bulk of the land.



Government - 8% (2.02 million acres) Forest Industry - 20% (4.68 million acres) Private non-industrial landowners - 72% (17.20 million acres)

GA's Three FIA Panel Results - 2002

## **ECONOMY:**

TIMBER - THE TOP CROP:

- Timber is the highest valued vegetative crop in Georgia followed by cotton, peanuts, and vegetables.
- Georgia remains one of the top pulp & paper states in the nation.

#### GEORGIA'S TOP FOUR CROPS





Timber 19%\*

Cotton Peanuts 8%\*

6%\*

\* % of total sales includes plant and animal crops

Georgia Forestry Commission Georgia Agricultural Statistics Service, 2002

Vegetables

5%\*

#### FORESTRY - THE LEADING INDUSTRY:

- Forestry directly creates 177,266 jobs statewide and supports a total of 204,065 jobs.
- Georgia's forest resource creates a 19.5 billion dollar direct economic impact in the state annually with a total direct and indirect impact of 30.5 billion dollars.

Economic Development Institute Georgia Institute of Technology



FORESTRY IS A \$30.5 BILLION / YEAR INDUSTRY IN GEORGIA



#### **REFORESTATION:**

- In the last 20 years (1983-2002), Georgians have replanted nearly 7.85 million acres in trees... that's 1,075 acres a day, which is 698,750 trees per day.
- Approximately 1.78 trees are planted for every one harvested to ensure that future forests will continue to support our economy and environment.
- An estimated 80,000 acres of forestland are naturally regenerated each year.

2001-2002 GFC Reforestation Survey

#### FORESTTYPE:

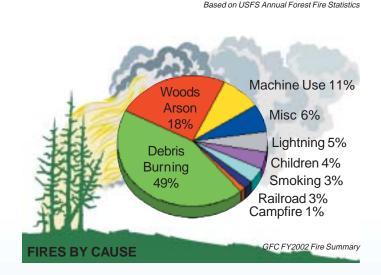
- Commerical forestland in Georgia consists of: 39.2% hardwoods, 16.2% oak/pine, 44% pine, and .6% non-stocked.
- The most prevalent hardwood forest types are oak, maple, yellow poplar, and sweetgum.
- Loblolly and slash are the primary pine forest types.



### **URBAN & COMMUNITY FORESTRY:**

#### FOREST PROTECTION:

- Georgia experiences about 8,767 forest fires each year that damage or destroy approximately 38,183 forest acres.
- Georgia firefighters have the best fire suppression record in the Southeast with the average size fire consuming less than five acres.
- Careless burning of debris continues to be the leading cause of forest fires.



Over 70% of Georgia's population lives in urban areas. Urban and community trees make our communities livable. Benefits of healthy trees in urban & rural areas include:



ECONOMIC BENEFITS:

SOCIAL BENEFITS:

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS:

- Enhance economic stability by attracting businesses and tourists
  - Reduce cooling and heating costs
  - Can add up to 15% to residential property value
  - Improve mental and physical health and well-being of people
  - Contribute to a sense of community pride and ownership
  - Provide privacy and a sense of solitude and security
  - Clean water, conserve water, and reduce soil erosion
- Clean air and reduce air pollution
  - Create wildlife and plant diversity
  - Modify local climate

#### **FOREST PRODUCTS:**

Trees can be used to make thousands of consumer items. On the average, each American will use approximately 3 pounds of wood products per day. Products or by-products from trees include:

Bandage strips Baseball bats Candles Capsules/Tablets Clothing Combs Cough syrup Crackers Crayons Eyeglass frames Football helmets Fruits & Nuts Gum Ice cream Lipstick Make-up Maple syrup Milk cartons Nail polish Newspaper Paint Parmesan cheese Pencils Perfume

Photo film Shampoo Sponges Tires Toilet tissue Toothpaste



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