



Timber Management- Timber Harvesting

Timber Harvesting:

Thinning is a forest management practice that is generally performed at some point(s) in time during the course of the growth and development of both natural and planted pine stands. Thinning (as a forest management practice) can be defined as the calculated removal of certain trees from an existing stand and is usually conducted with a specific objective in mind.

There are various reasons why thinning should be employed as a management practice in pine stands. Thinning promotes the growth of individual trees within a stand by removing surrounding trees, which compete for water, sunlight, and soil nutrients. Most natural and planted stands require thinning at certain stages of their development in order to sustain good tree growth throughout the life of the stand. Thinning is beneficial to the overall health of a stand of trees. Certain methods of thinning allow for the removal of a greater portion of diseased trees and trees that are of poor quality and form. Many of these poorly formed, cankered trees will die before the final harvest. Therefore, the landowner is capturing an early economic return with the thinning (removal) of these poor quality trees. Thinning can be effective in enhancing habitat for certain wildlife species.

Thinning Indicators: A common question from landowners is: “When should I thin my stand of trees?” The answer to this largely depends on their objective(s) for the stand. Most landowner objectives involve three major factors: rotation age, products to be grown (pulpwood, sawtimber, poles, pine straw), and stand health/vigor assuming timber production is a high priority. There are several indicators that can aid in determining when a stand should be thinned.

- **Live Crown Ratio:** The height of the live crown (the part of the tree with live branches) divided by the total height of the tree. When the average live crown ratio falls below 35 percent, the stand should be thinned. For example, if the average tree height is 45 feet and the average length of the live crown is 16 feet, then that stand needs to be thinned soon ($[(16/45) \times 100 = 35.5\%]$).

- **Basal Area:** The area in square feet taken up by an individual tree trunk at DBH (diameter at breast height or 4.5 feet above the ground). Basal area per acre is the sum of the square feet represented by all of the trees growing in one acre. Basal area per acre is a measure of stand density. When the basal area for loblolly, slash, and longleaf pine is greater than 100 to 120 square feet per acre then the stand biologically is in need of a thinning.

**GEORGIA FORESTRY
COMMISSION**



If you are interested in having your existing timber harvested, it is recommended to have a consulting forester in your area come and evaluate your trees. If harvesting is possible, use them to handle the bidding and contract along with managing the harvest. Insist that Georgia's Best Management Practices (**BMPs**) are met or exceeded during the harvesting. For a thinning, have them mark any diseased, forked, or otherwise suppressed trees to be removed. For a good balance of timber productions and your wildlife and recreational interests, thin the stand down to a residual basal area of 60 to 70 ft²/acre.

The links below can assist you with any timber harvesting advice along with what types of products could be growing in your woodlands.

<https://gatrees.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/SellingYourTimber.pdf>
<https://gatrees.org/forest-management-conservation/timber-sales-harvest-advice/>

Georgia Lumber Industry:

Primary Wood Using Industries by County							
Appling Appling County Pellets Interfor	Carroll Eutree, Inc. Price Fibers Red Oak Firewood	Cook Guthrie Lumber Company Hood Landscaping Products	Primary Wood Using Industries by County	Hart AA Farms, Inc. Southern Shavings	Lowndes Hood Timber & Landscaping Products Langdale Forest Products Packaging Corp. of America Price Fibers Quality Log Homes, LLC	Pierce Ace Pole Company Rayonier Advanced Materials West Fraser Putnam Interfor	Upson Accuwright-Custom Sawing Interfor Rockwood Premium Fuel Pellets
Atkinson Langboard, MDF	Charlton Margo Garden Products Price Fibers	Coweta Smoak Firewood	Fannin Cruse Lumber Company Robinson Stave LLC	Henry OAR Recycling	Quitman Quality Log Homes, LLC	Wilkes Multitrade Rabun Gap, LLC	Walker 151 Sawmill Circle H Sawmill & Farms Thomas Sawmill
Bacon Beach Timber Company	Chatham East Coast Terminals International Paper Co.	Crisp Griffin Lumber Company Norbord Georgia (OSB)	Floyd Georgia-Pacific	Houston Davee's Hardwood Lumber Hamsley Hardwood	Lumpkin Cantrell Sawmill	Richmond Graphic Packaging International West Fraser	Ware B & M Wood Products, Inc. Georgia Biomass, LLC
Baldwin T & S Hardwoods, Inc.	Chatahoochee International Paper Company Metro Ports	Dawson MD Turner Enterprise	Franklin Hogan & Storey Wood Products International Paper Co. Valley Wood Post Mill	Irwin Logs to Lumber & Beyond	Madison Backyard to Nature Georgia Renewable Power - Madison Superior Shavings, LLC	Spalding Carden Timber Harvesting, LLC	Warren Adam's Woodworks Georgia-Pacific (Warrenton CNS) Timberman Inc., The
Ben Hill Agri-Products, Inc.; Suncoast Pine Shavings Choice Wood LLC Meredit Pole & Timber Southern Veneer Products (Plywood) West Fraser	Cherokee Smith, J. P. Lumber Company Sweetman Sawmill	DeKalb Atlantic Fine Wood The Jack Ellis Company	Forsyth Anderson Lumber Company	Jackson Huber Engineered Woods, LLC (OSB)	Marion Oakcrest Lumber, Inc. White, Steve Sawmill & Lumber	Wayne Rayonier, Inc.	Washington Bessley Forest Products Southern Chips, LLC
Berrien Dupont Pine Products, LLC	Clay Holden, Scott Sawmill Young's Pulpwood & Grading	Dodge Cox Industries Kencove Farm Fence Posts Rayonier Advanced Materials	Gilmer Logan Sawmill, Inc. Sparks Lumber Company	Jasper Champion Lumber Company Oldcastle, Inc. Pallet, The Factory	Miller Cross Sawmill	Webster Interfor	White Hogan Shavings Hogan Shavings Yonah Mountain Mulch
Bibb Graphic Packaging International Macon Chips I Macon Chips II	Clarke New Urban Forestry	Dougherty Albany Green Energy Georgia-Pacific LLC	Glascock Pulliam Lumber Company	Jeff Davis Pallet, The Factory	Mitchell Balfour Pole Company	Wilkinson Rayonier, Inc.	Whitfield Cline W. D. & Sons Lumber Company Davis Sawmill
Bleckley Peacock Sawmill & Custom Wood Prod.	Clinch Connor Holdings Mulch MFG Ohio Mulch Supply	Douglas John Willoughby Construction Urban Lumber Furnishings	Glynn Brunswick Cellulose, LLC	Jefferson Battle Lumber Co., Inc. Lamb Brothers Lumber Company	Monroe Custom Cut Timber Products Southern Forest Industries	Worth Rayonier Advanced Materials	Wilkes Burt Lumber Company Callaway Farms Manufacturing LLC Gunter Farms
Brentley Archer Forest Products, LLC H & H Sawing & Lumber Rowell Enterprises Varn Wood Products	Cobb BRU Enterprises Downey Trees	Early Georgia-Pacific, LLC	Gordon Arrow Log Processing, LLC	Jordan Jordan Forest Products PGP	Montgomery Thompson H. V. & T. G. Lumber Company	Yamacraw Telfair Forest Products	Wilkinson Gopher Packaging International North American Container Corporation Woody Lumber Company
Brooks Langboard, Inc. (OSB) Rayonier Advanced Materials	Coffee Day Lumber & Pallet LLC	Effingham Exley Lumber Company Fountain Enterprises Georgia Exports Company	Grady Riverwood Flooring & Paneling	Lamar Jordan Forest Products PGP	Morgan Georgia-Pacific (Madison Plywood) Graphic Packaging International	Yamacraw Telfair Forest Products	
Bryan Gann, Inc.	Colquitt American Southern Forest Products	Evans International Paper Company	Gwinnett Downey Trees	Laurens Green Power Solutions of Georgia, LLC Valley Wood Post Mill	Murray Reed Lumber Company, Inc.	Yamacraw Telfair Forest Products	
Bulloch Howard, Claude Lumber Company Sheppard, W. M. Lumber Company	Conner Canfor - Moultrie	Flint SMF Holdings Inc.	Habersham VLC Lumber, Inc.	Liberty West Fraser DS Smith DS Smith Lumber	Oglethorpe Fleeman Custom Shavings Titan Wood Products	Yamacraw Telfair Forest Products	
	Columbia Pollard Lumber Company	Jefferson Dixie Firewood Company Owens Lumber Company	Harris Mountain Oak Mill			Union Brookshire, Benny Firewood	



2020 Georgia Wood-Using Industries

