



## Georgia's Forests in a Regional, National, and Global Context

Georgia's leadership in the production of forest products in the U.S. south, nation and world is possible because of the state's highly productive forests. On average, Georgia's 23.8 million acres of commercial timberlands grow in excess of 24 million tons more wood per year than is harvested, resulting in growth exceeding removals by 48% for all species combined. **Georgia is home to the following forest industry leaders and #1 rankings:**

- **The largest hardwood sawmill in the U.S.** – Beasley Forest Products – Hazlehurst, GA
- **The largest recycled paper mill in North America** – WestRock – Dublin, GA
- **The largest wood pellet plant in the World** – Georgia Biomass – Waycross, GA
- **The largest crude tall oil bio-refinery in the World** – Kraton Chemical – Savannah, GA
- **The largest wood rosin plant in the World** – Pinova – Brunswick, GA
- **Fort Benning is the 1<sup>st</sup> DoD base to undertake a forest carbon sequestration project**, 148,539 acres (*Fort Benning*)
- **Georgia leads the U.S. south** in softwood post & pole production & total post & pole production (*U.S. Forest Service*)
- **Georgia leads the U.S. south and nation** in the number of plantation acres at 7,289,796 (*U.S. Forest Service, Forest Inventory Analysis*)
- **Georgia leads the nation** in privately-owned timberland at 21,630,779 acres (*U.S. Forest Service, Forest Inventory Analysis*)
- **Georgia is one of the United States top wood pellet exporters.** (*U.S. Energy Information Administration, <https://www.eia.gov/state/analysis.php?sid=GA>*)
- **In 2020 the Port of Savannah exported 1,602.0 TMT (thousand metric tons).** (*Global Markets for Texas Forest Products, Center for North American Studies, Texas A&M, chrome-extension://efaidnbmninnibpcjpcglcfindmkaj/https://1yoo7k3mjej72y4ffj396xcv-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Global-Market-for-Texas-Forest-Products-Final.pdf*)
  - The top five export destinations for Georgia wood pellets are: United Kingdom, Belgium, Netherlands, Denmark, and Germany (*GTIS, 2015*)
  - Nearly 100% of Georgia's wood pellets are exported to utility companies in Europe where pellets are burned in electricity generating plants. (*U.S. Energy Information Administration, <https://www.eia.gov/state/analysis.php?sid=GA>*)