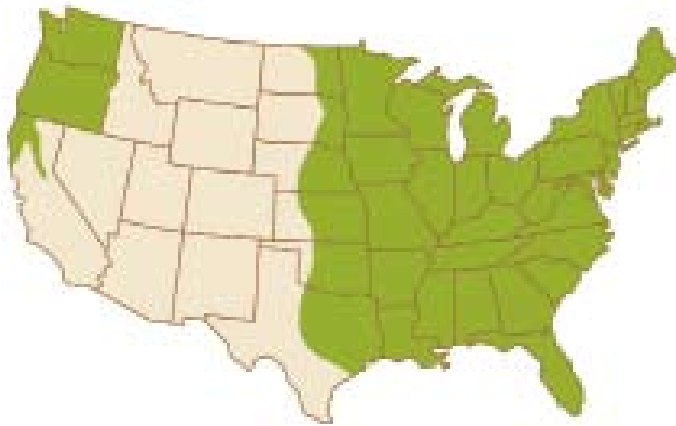


Fast Facts on NORTH AMERICAN HARDWOODS

- **Homegrown** – Don't search the globe for renewable and sustainable materials: North American hardwoods fit the bill! From alder and cherry, to the oaks and walnut—to name just a few—the North American hardwoods have been bringing warmth and beauty to the built environment for centuries.
- **Selection** – Nearly two dozen abundant species provide plenty of color, grain and pattern. North American hardwood forests offer more choices than any other temperate hardwood forest in the world.
- **The Natural Choice** – North American hardwoods are the natural choice for environmentally conscious builders, architects and designers looking to specify green materials.
- **Healthy** – North American hardwoods are ideal for healthy environments. They don't trap dust, dirt and other allergens. Low-VOC finishes keep hardwoods looking great and performing well.
- **Renewing Resource** – The USDA Forest Service reports that more hardwoods grow than are harvested each year. Since 1953, the volume of hardwoods in American forests has increased 119%. Supply is increasing, and it is sustainable.
- **Natural Regeneration** – By mirroring natural occurrences, hardwood forestry practices are a long-established form of biomimicry that supports natural regeneration.
- **Responsible Harvesting** – In North American hardwood forestry, the predominant harvesting method is single-tree selection—not clear-cutting. Foresters choose individual trees for harvest based on a complex array of considerations.
- **Life Cycle Costing** – When considering life cycle costing, the useful life of North American hardwoods can span generations, making them more favorable and cost effective than most other materials.
- **Energy Efficient** – It takes less energy to make products from wood than other materials. Making products from aluminum, glass, plastic, cement or brick can require as much as 126 times more energy than making them from wood.
- **Carbon Negative** – Trees reduce greenhouse gases in the atmosphere by removing carbon dioxide, storing carbon and releasing oxygen.
- **Easy on the Environment** – Virtually every part of a log is used as lumber or by-products, and finished products are re-useable, recyclable and biodegradable.
- **Certification** – Only about 14% of U.S. forests are certified because 69% of all timberland in the U.S. is owned by private individuals and firms.

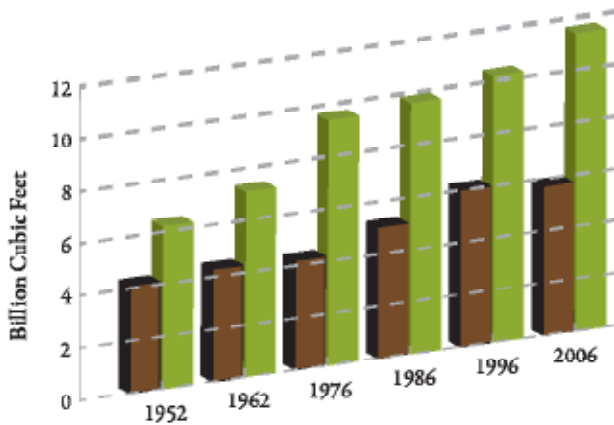


Where Hardwoods Grow



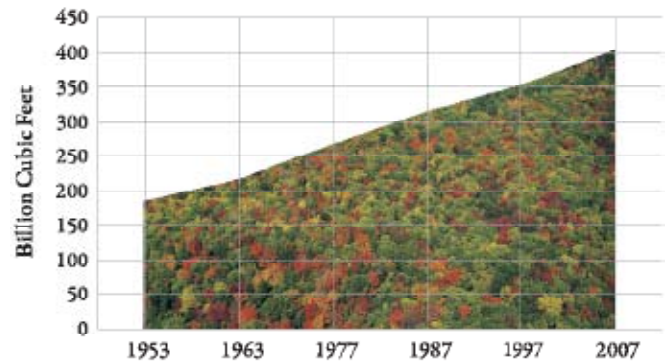
Of all U.S. hardwood timber volume, 90% is concentrated in the eastern part of the country. All hardwood forests in the continental U.S. are temperate, not tropical. They are home to the oaks, maples, cherry, ash, poplar, and scores of other broad-leaved deciduous species.

Hardwood Growth Far Exceeds Removal in U.S. Forests



The balance between net growth and removals provides an estimate of timber sustainability. The growth-to-removals ratio (G:R = net growth/growing-stock removals) quantifies this balance. The G:R for hardwoods in 2006 was 2.00.

Volume of Hardwood in U.S. Forests



In 2007, the volume of hardwood in U.S. forests totaled 403 billion cubic feet, an increase of 119% since 1953.

Source of Statistical Data: Forest Resources of the United States by the USDA Forest Service, 2007



Swift River Valley, Massachusetts, ca. 1880's (left) and ca. 1990's (right).

Photos courtesy Harvard Forest Archives, Harvard Forest, Petersham, Mass.