

# FORESTRY



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Here in Minnesota, the forest is part of our landscape, culture, geography and history. No matter where we live all of us are connected to the forest. For the beauty. For recreation. For the products we use every day! Careful planning will assure they are here to stay.

## Background

Forestry is not often considered a part of agriculture. However, the United States Forest Service is an agency in the United States Department of Agriculture. The forestry industry is very important to our national and state economies.

## The Minnesota Forest

The forests of Minnesota are very diverse. The most common trees include aspen, spruce, balsam fir, birch, ash, maple, northern white cedar, tamarack, pine, oak and elm. Today, Minnesota has 20 million more trees (over 19 inches in diameter) that it did 50 years ago!

## Minnesota's \$17.1 Billion Industry

More than 86,000 people in Minnesota's forest products industry make paper for books, magazines, brochures, computer printers and more. They make lumber, siding panels and engineered wood products for building homes, including oriented strand board. These workers also make industrial packaging for many commercial applications.

## Forested Land

Total forestland in Minnesota accounts for about one-third of the state's land area, or approximately 16.7 million acres. About 80% of this area is maintained for recreation, wildlife habitat and timber management.

## Minnesota's Forests Today

Aspen is currently the most abundant deciduous tree in Minnesota. Its regeneration capabilities, dense re-growth characteristics and short life span offer tremendous opportunities to create and maintain young forests. Research has proven the establishment of young forests habitats through commercial forest management and other habitat management practices is essential for the long-term health of Minnesota's wildlife.

Harvesting an aspen site by clear-cutting is visually dramatic and often misunderstood. Being shade-intolerant, Aspen trees require direct sunlight to successfully reproduce and grow. After a mature stand is removed, young aspens sprout by the thousands along live root systems.

Each year, the Minnesota forest products industry plants more than 3 million tree seedlings. There are more trees in Minnesota today than there were seventy years ago! That's great news, because the amount of wood products that each person in the U.S. uses per year has risen more than 31% in the last 20 years (to 749 lbs.)

## What's in a tree? It's more than just paper

Did You Know?

- One cord of wood can produce up to 2,000 pounds of paper or 7,500,000 toothpicks or 30 Boston rockers.
- Arbor is Latin for "tree". Arbor Day is a special day set aside each year for planting and caring for trees.



## Invaders in Our Forests

Plants and animals that are not native to an ecosystem and are likely to cause economic or environmental harm are considered invasive species. These invaders are significant threats to healthy forests in Minnesota and across the nation. Prevention, as well as early detection, is the first line of defense against new introductions. Once established, control can be a slow and costly process.

Invasive species arrive in Minnesota forests by various means – hitch-hiking on vehicles and equipment, stowed away in firewood and wood packing materials, being spread by wildlife or blowing with the wind. Once established in the forest, the invaders crowd out and prey upon native species, altering habitat, killing trees and disrupting natural ecosystems.

You may want to further research the following plant and insect invasive species: emerald ash borer, asian longhorned beetle, common pine shoot beetle, pine bark beetle, gypsy moth, Japanese beetle, buckthorn and spotted knapweed to name a few.



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