



Virginia Cooperative Extension

Virginia Tech • Virginia State University

Virginia Forest Facts

- Virginia is 62 percent forested (15.8 million acres)
- Non-industrial private landowners own 62 percent (10 million acres)
- Forest industry owns less than 1 percent (186,700 acres)
- Public owns 18 percent (2.8 million acres)
- Hardwood forests make up more than 79 percent of all Virginia timberland (12.6 million acres)
- Softwood forests make up 20 percent of all Virginia timberland (3 million acres).
- Growth rates are exceeding removal rates
- Plantations account for 12 percent of Virginia's timberland and 65 percent of all softwood acreage
- Forestry contributes \$17 billion annually to Virginia's economy
- Forests provide more than \$2.5 billion in recreational opportunities
- Forestry provides more than 103,000 jobs in Virginia
- Forests provide at least \$21.8 billion annually in ecological and social benefits (soil and water protection, air quality, wildlife habitat, carbon storage, aesthetics and crime reduction).

Virginia Forest Fact Source:

- Paul, Aaron. 2011. The Economic Benefits of Natural Goods and Services. Available on-line at: <http://www.pecva.org/library/documents/Resources-Publications/Reports/Land-Conservation/2011-the-economic-benefit-of-natural-services-report.pdf>
- Rephann, Terance J. 2013. The Economic Impacts of Agriculture and Forestry in Virginia. Available on-line at: <http://www.dof.virginia.gov/print/econ/2013/weldon-cooper-Economic-Impact-Of-Ag-Forestry-2013.pdf>
- Virginia Department of Forestry. 2014 State of the Forest. Available on-line at: http://www.dof.virginia.gov/infopubs/sof/SOF-2014_pub.pdf