



Georgia's Forests: Fast Facts

Georgia Forestry Commission

The Georgia Forestry Commission (GFC) is a dynamic state agency responsible for providing leadership, service and education in the protection and conservation of Georgia's forest resources.

- Agency vision - Healthy, sustainable forests providing clean air, clean water and abundant products for future generations.

Forest Land

Of Georgia's 37 million acres of land area, 24.6 million acres is forestland. Of this 24.6 million acres, 24.1 million acres is timberland available for commercial use - more than any other state in the nation. Georgia's commercial forestland consists of 45% pines, 42% hardwoods, 11% oak/pine, and 2% non-stocked. The state's forestlands provide a myriad of benefits to citizens, including clean air and clean water. With two out of every three raindrops falling in Georgia landing on forestlands, our forests are one of the most significant factors affecting our water quality and quantity.

Sustainability

Georgia's forests are being sustainably managed to meet the growing needs of citizens. With the wise use of knowledge and resources, Georgians can keep our forests sustainable for present and future generations.

- Georgia's commercial forestlands grow 23 million tons more wood each year than is harvested, resulting in growth exceeding removals by 48%.
- Approximately 1.8 trees are planted for every one harvested to ensure that future forests will continue to support our economy and environment.

Forest Threats

Aside from urbanization, two of the greatest threats facing Georgia's forest resources are insects, diseases and forest fire.

- Currently, Georgia's forests are home to an estimated 21 invasive plants, seven invasive insects and three known diseases. Nearly 2 million acres of forestlands are impacted by invasive species and/or diseases.
- On average, Georgia has 4,601 wildfires each year, which burn 43,793 acres of forestland on state and private lands.

Contribution to the Economy

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. For these reasons and others, Georgia's forestry community is an economic engine for the state:

- Forest-related industries inject \$32.2 billion and more than 133,000 jobs into the state's economy.
- Compensation for forest industry employees exceeds \$7.9 billion per year, making it the second largest industry in the state in terms of wages and salaries.
- The forest industry provides an average of \$753 million in state tax revenues each year.
- Ecosystem services - clean water, carbon storage, wildlife habitat and aesthetics - provided by Georgia's forests are valued at \$37 billion annually.