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# VIRGINIA TECH

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**WOOD USE IN THE U. S. PALLET AND  
CONTAINER INDUSTRY: 1995**



## **Center for Forest Products Marketing**

**Department of Wood Science and Forest Products  
School of Forestry & Wildlife Resources**

1650 Ramble Road  
Virginia Tech  
Blacksburg, VA 24061-0503

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Vijay S. Reddy  
Post-Doctoral Research Associate

Robert J. Bush  
Associate Professor

Matthew S. Bumgardner  
Graduate Assistant

James L. Chamberlain  
National Needs Fellow

Philip A. Araman  
Project Leader  
USDA Forest Service  
Southern Research Station  
Blacksburg, Virginia

**Center for Forest Products Marketing and Management**

Department of Wood Science and Forest Products  
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University  
1650 Ramble Road  
Blacksburg, VA 24061-0503

(540) 231-5876

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report provides estimates of the volumes of various wood materials used in 1995 by the U. S. pallet and container industry. In Spring 1996, data were gathered using a mail survey of 2,619 pallet and container manufacturers (Standard Industrial Classification codes 2441, 2448, and 2449) across the United States. Using these data, we estimated the volumes of various wood materials used by the industry in 1995, and compared these estimates to the estimated wood material use in 1993 and 1992. The following are highlights of the study.

- ◆ The industry manufactured approximately 411 million new pallets in 1995.
- ◆ The pallet and container industry used an estimated 4.53 billion board feet of solid hardwood (lumber, cants, and parts) in 1995. The estimated consumption of solid hardwood in 1993 and 1992 was 4.82 and 4.74 billion board feet, respectively.
- ◆ Oak (1.22 billion board feet) was the most commonly used hardwood species, followed by yellow-poplar (379.5 million board feet), and alder (165.2 million board feet). In addition, the industry used 2.6 billion board feet of mixed hardwoods.
- ◆ The industry consumed 1.79 billion board feet of solid softwood (lumber, cants, and parts) in 1995. The estimated consumption of solid softwood was 2.12 billion board feet in 1993 and 2.15 billion board feet in 1992.
- ◆ Southern pine accounted for 40.9% (730.6 million board feet) and the Spruce-Pine-Fir species group for 30.9% (551.9 million board feet) of solid softwood use in 1995. Douglas-fir accounted for 11.2% of the solid softwood use.
- ◆ In 1995, the pallet and container industry used an estimated 187 million square feet (3/8" thickness basis) of softwood plywood. An estimated 178 million square feet were used in 1993 and 169 million square feet in 1992. The volumes for 1993 and 1992 were plywood of all thickness, making comparisons difficult.
- ◆ The industry used an estimated 21 million square feet (3/8" thickness basis) of oriented strand board (OSB) in 1995. Approximately 18 million square feet and 20 million square feet of OSB were used in 1993 and 1992, respectively. As with plywood, OSB volumes for 1993 and 1992 were reported without a common thickness basis, making comparisons difficult.