



# Florida's Timber Industry—Timber Product Output and Use, 2015

## Introduction

This science update contains the findings of a 2015 canvass of all primary wood-using plants in Florida, and presents changes in product output and residue use since 2013. It complements the Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) annual inventory of volume and removals from the State's timberland. The canvass was conducted to determine the amount and source of wood receipts and annual timber product drain, by county, in 2015 and to determine interstate and cross-regional movement of industrial roundwood. Only primary wood-using mills were canvassed. Primary mills are those that process roundwood in log or bolt form or as chipped roundwood. Examples of industrial roundwood products are saw logs, pulpwood, veneer logs, poles, and logs used for composite board products. Mills producing products from residues generated at primary and secondary processors were not canvassed. Trees chipped in the woods were included in the estimate of timber drain only if they were delivered to a primary domestic manufacturer.

A 100-percent canvass of all wood processors in Florida was conducted in 2016 to obtain information for 2015. In addition, roundwood from out-of-State mills known to be using logs or bolts harvested from Florida timberland was incorporated into Florida production estimates. Each mill was canvassed by mail or through personal contact at plant locations. Telephone contacts followed mailed questionnaire responses when additional information or clarification of a response was necessary. In the event of a nonresponse, data collected in previous surveys were used to update the current survey. Surveys for all timber products other than pulpwood began in 1958, and are currently conducted every 2 years.

Pulpwood production data were taken from an annual canvass of all southern pulpmills. Medium density fiberboard, insulating board, and hardboard plants were included in this survey.

The Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) Research Work Unit of the Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture developed the Timber Product Output (TPO) Database Retrieval System to help customers answer questions about timber harvesting and use in the Southern region. This system acts as an interface to a standard set of consistently coded TPO data for each State and county in the region and Nation. The database is well documented and easy to use. The retrieval system allows the user to select the TPO variables of interest and generate a standard set of timber products, removals, and mill residue tables for the specified resource area, State, or region. The Excel® core tables and figures that complement this

science update are available on the TPO database. The system is available through the FIA Web site: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/srsfia/>.

The SRS gratefully acknowledges the tremendous cooperation and assistance provided by the Florida Forest Service in collecting mill data. Appreciation is also extended to forest industry and mill managers for providing timber products information.

**Table 1—Output of industrial products by product and species group, Florida, 2013 and 2015**

Product and species group	Year			
	2013	2015	Change	Change
	<i>---- thousand cubic feet ----</i>		<i>---- percent ----</i>	
<b>Saw logs</b>				
Softwood	122,713	135,324	12,611	10.3
Hardwood	2,038	1,650	-388	-19.0
Total	124,751	136,974	12,223	9.8
<b>Pulpwood</b>				
Softwood	284,374	270,059	-14,315	-5.0
Hardwood	15,015	14,259	-756	-5.0
Total	299,389	284,318	-15,071	-5.0
<b>Post, poles, and pilings</b>				
Softwood	3,660	3,896	236	6.4
Hardwood	0	0	0	0.0
Total	3,660	3,896	236	6.4
<b>Bioenergy</b>				
Softwood	31,383	38,674	7,291	23.2
Hardwood	5,283	15,453	10,170	192.5
Total	36,666	54,127	17,461	47.6
<b>Other industrial</b>				
Softwood	78,405	41,200	-37,205	-47.5
Hardwood	7,194	2,667	-4,527	-62.9
Total	85,599	43,867	-41,732	-48.8
<b>All industrial</b>				
Softwood	526,535	489,153	-37,382	-7.1
Hardwood	29,530	34,029	4,499	15.2
Total	556,065	523,182	-32,883	-5.9



## All Products

Industrial timber product output from roundwood decreased 32.9 million cubic feet, or 6 percent, to 523.2 million cubic feet.

Output of industrial softwood roundwood products decreased 7 percent, to 489.2 million cubic feet, while output of industrial hardwood roundwood products increased 15 percent to 34 million cubic feet (fig. 1).

Pulpwood and saw logs were the principal roundwood products in 2015. Combined output of these two products totaled 421.3 million cubic feet and accounted for 81 percent of the State's total industrial roundwood output (fig. 2).

Total receipts at Florida mills, which included roundwood harvested and retained in the State and roundwood imported from other States, was up 3 percent from 537.3 million cubic feet to 552.1 million cubic feet.

At the same time, the number of primary roundwood-using plants in Florida increased from 53 in 2013 to 56 in 2015.(fig. 3, see next page).

Across all products, 84 percent of roundwood harvested was retained for processing at Florida mills. Exports of roundwood to other States amounted to 82.2 million cubic feet, while imports of roundwood amounted to 106.1 million cubic feet making the State a net importer of roundwood.

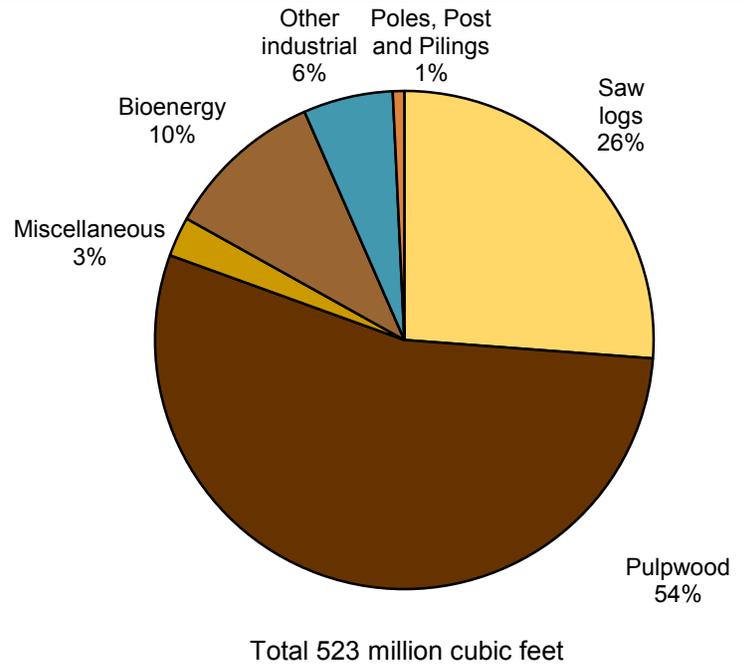


Figure 2—Roundwood production by type of product, Florida, 2015.

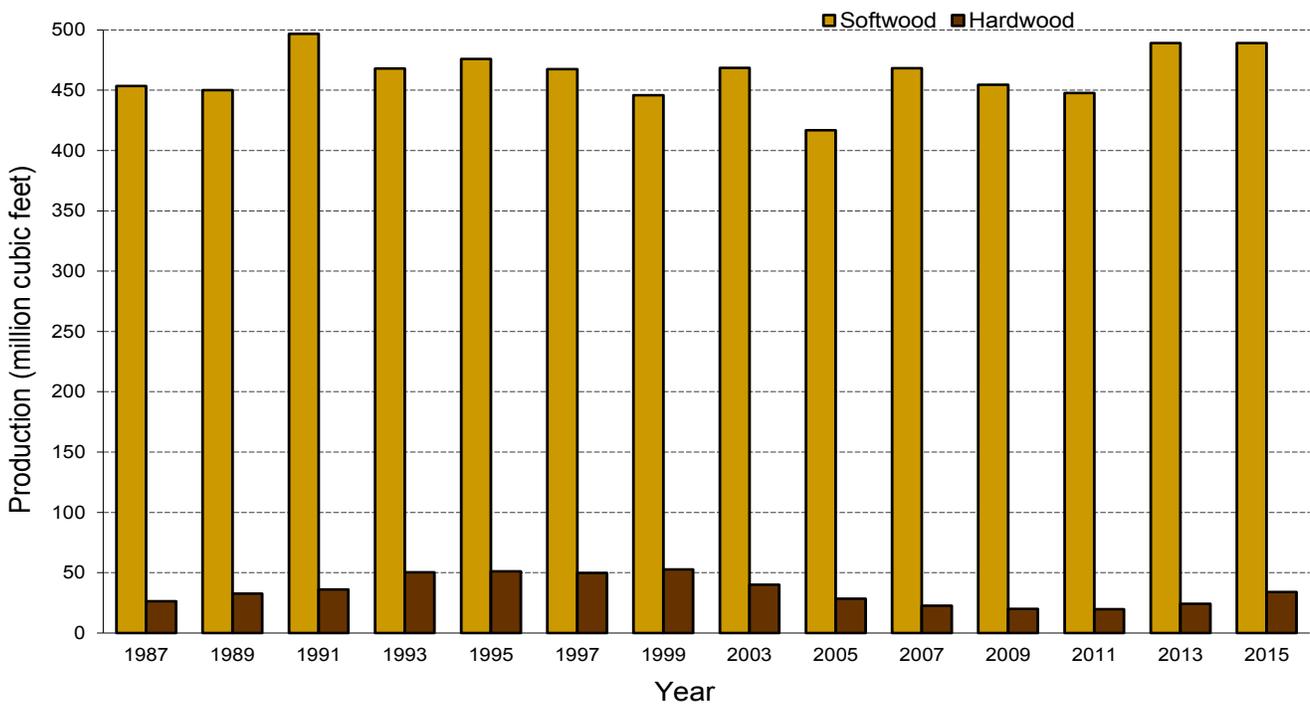


Figure 1—Roundwood production for all products by species group and year, Florida, 2015.

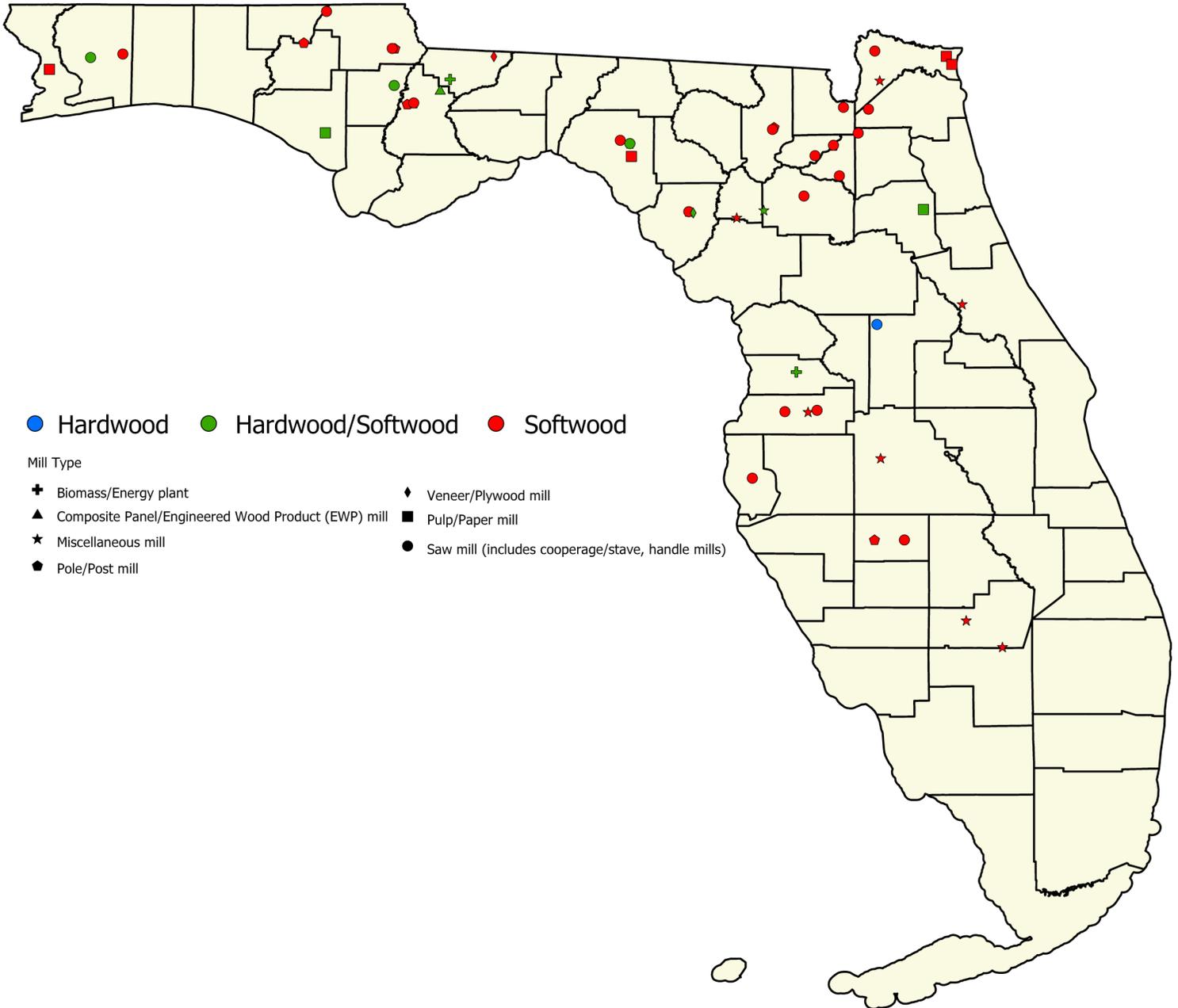


Figure 3—Primary wood-using mills, Florida, 2015.

## Pulpwood

Total pulpwood production decreased 5 percent to 284.3 million cubic feet and accounted for 54 percent of the State's total roundwood TPO compared to 58 percent of total TPO in 2013. Softwood output decreased 5 percent to 270.1 million cubic feet; hardwood output decreased 5 percent to 14.3 million cubic feet (fig. 4).

Six pulpmill facilities were operating and receiving roundwood in Florida in 2015, the same since 1999. Total pulpwood receipts for these mills decreased to 314.9 million cubic feet, accounting for 57 percent of total receipts for all mills.

Eighty-two percent of roundwood cut for pulpwood was retained for processing at Florida pulpmills. Roundwood pulpwood accounted for 53 percent of total known exports and 75 percent of total imports.

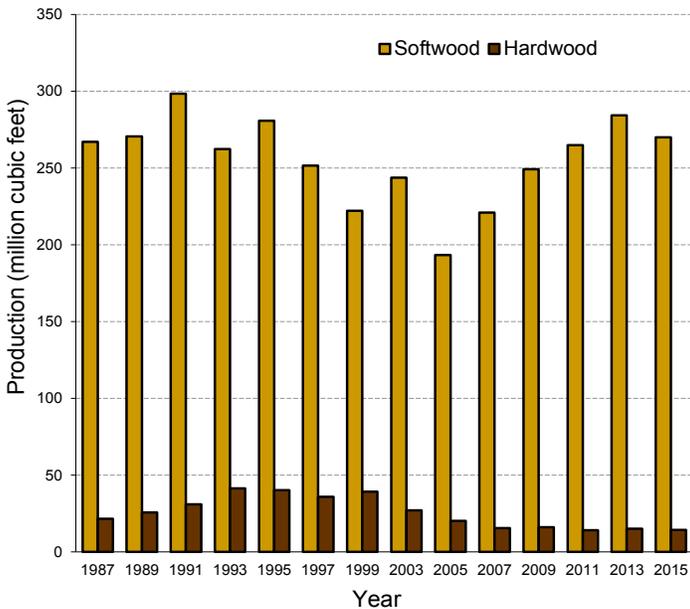


Figure 4—Roundwood pulpwood production by species group and year, Florida, 2015.

## Saw Logs

Saw logs accounted for 26 percent of the State's total roundwood products. Output of softwood saw logs increased 10 percent to 135.3 million cubic feet, while that of hardwood saw logs decreased 19 percent to 1.7 million cubic feet (fig. 5).



Figure 5—Roundwood saw-log production by species group and year, Florida, 2015.

In 2015, Florida had 24 sawmills, same as 2011. Total saw-log receipts increased 19.1 million cubic feet to 119.4 million cubic feet. Softwood saw-log receipts increased 20 percent to 117.8 million cubic feet, while those of hardwoods had no change at 1.6 million cubic feet.

Florida retained 86 percent of its saw-log production for within State manufacture, with saw-log exports exceeding imports by 5 million cubic feet in 2015.

## Bioenergy

Total bioenergy production increased 48 percent to 54.1 million cubic feet and accounted for 10 percent of the State's total roundwood TPO compared to 7 percent of total TPO in 2013. Softwood output increased 23 percent to 38.7 million cubic feet; hardwood output increased 193 percent to 15.5 million cubic feet (fig. 6).

Ninety-five percent of roundwood cut for bioenergy was retained for processing at Florida bioenergy mills. Imports exceeded exports by 3.6 million cubic feet.

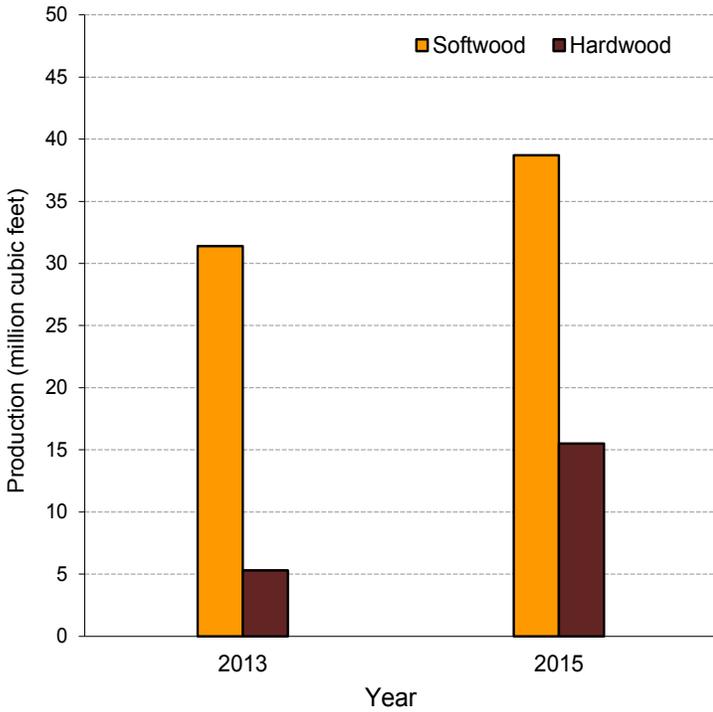


Figure 6—Roundwood bioenergy production by species group and year, Florida, 2015.

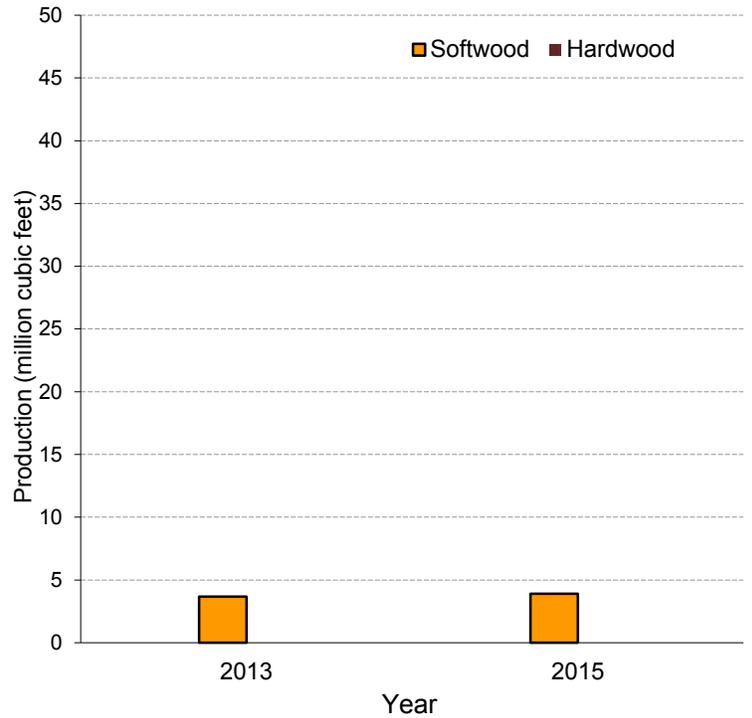


Figure 7—Roundwood poles, post, and pilings production by species group and year, Florida, 2015.

Florida retained 46 percent of its poles, post, and pilings production for within State manufacture. Florida imported no pole, post, or piling logs.

## Poles, Post and Pilings

Poles, post and pilings accounted for 1 percent of the State's total roundwood products. Output of poles, post and, piling logs increased 6 percent to 3.9 million cubic feet (fig. 7).

In 2015, Florida had 7 post, pole, and piling mills, same as 2013. Total post, poles, and piling receipts totaled 1.8 million cubic feet. Softwood accounted for all production.

## Other Industrial Products

Roundwood harvested for other industrial uses such as mulch, residential firewood, industrial fuel, logs for log homes, composite panels, and all other industrial products totaled 43.9 million cubic feet. Softwood made up 94 percent of the other industrial products volume.

The number of plants producing other industrial products totaled 13 in 2015. Combined receipts of other industrial products from softwood and hardwood totaled 45.6 million cubic feet.

## Plant Byproducts

In 2015, processing of primary products in Florida mills generated 164.2 million cubic feet of wood and bark residues. Coarse residues from all primary products amounted to 41.8 million cubic feet, while bark volume totaled 41.8 million cubic feet. Collectively, sawdust and shavings made up 21 percent of total residues, or 33.8 million cubic feet (fig. 8).

The processing of saw logs generated 87.4 million cubic feet of mill residues, accounting for 53 percent of the total residues produced (fig. 9).

Nearly 100 percent, or 164.2 million cubic feet, of the wood and bark residues were used for a product. While <1 percent of the residues were not used for a product, 61 percent of the residues were used for industrial fuel and 25 percent were used for fiber products (fig. 10). Ninety-three percent, or 38.9 million cubic feet, of the coarse residues were used for fiber products. Eighty-nine percent of the bark was used for industrial fuel, while 57 percent of the sawdust and shavings were used for industrial fuel.

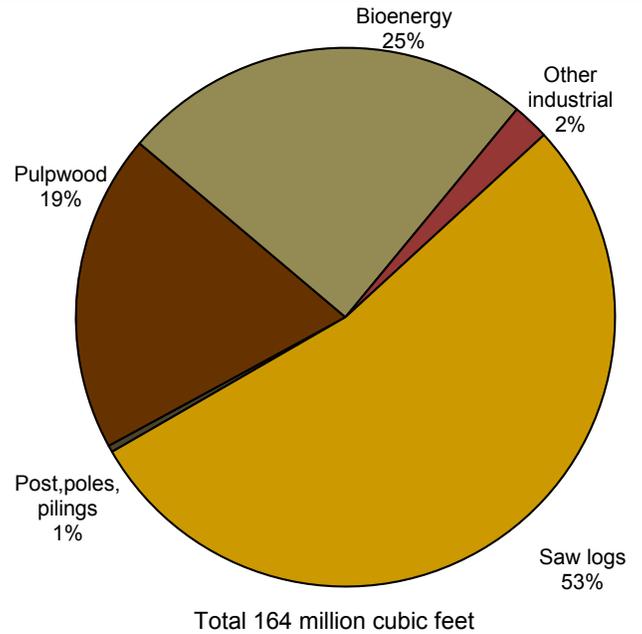


Figure 9— Primary mill residue produced by roundwood type, Florida, 2015.

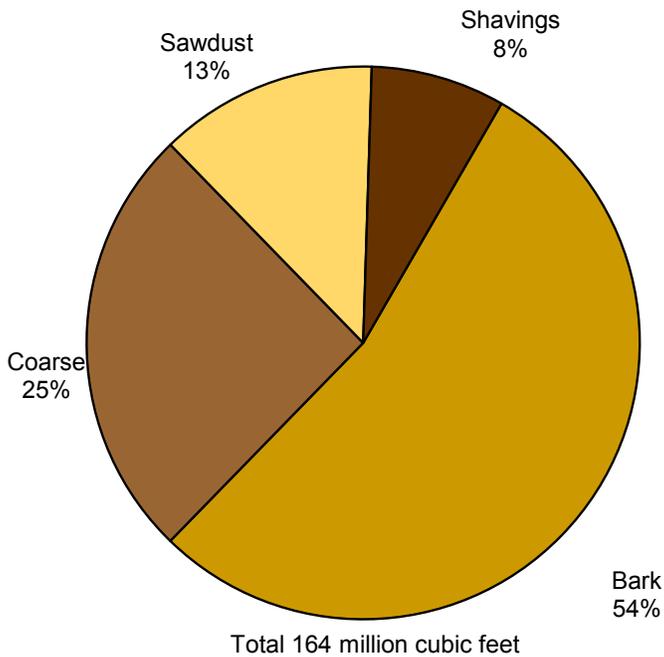


Figure 8— Primary mill residue by type, Florida, 2015.

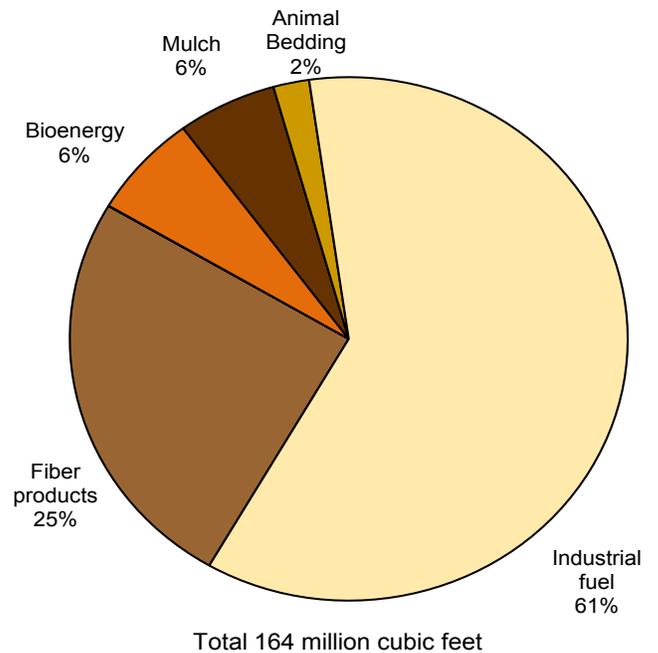


Figure 10— Disposal of residue by product, Florida, 2015.

### How to Cite This Publication

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