



The Forest Products Laboratory at a Glance

Our Mission

To promote healthy forests and forest-based economies through the efficient, sustainable use of our wood resources

Research Work Units

- Durability and Wood Protection Research
- Engineered Properties of Wood, Wood Based Materials, and Structures
- Economics and Statistics Research
- Engineered Composites Science
- Fiber and Chemical Sciences Research
- Institute for Microbial and Biochemical Technology
- Performance Enhanced Biopolymers

USDA Forest Service

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About FPL

The long-term health of our Nation's forests depends on sound conservation practices, including utilization. Founded in 1910, the Forest Products Laboratory (FPL) in Madison, Wisconsin, uses science and technology to conserve and extend our Nation's forest resources. FPL is recognized around the world as a source of unbiased information about wood science and use.

Current Focus Areas

1. *Underutilized woody biomass*—Developing uses for small-diameter softwoods, underutilized hardwoods, and urban woody biomass to improve forest health, decrease fire risks, boost local economies, and provide renewable products.
2. *Nanotechnology*—Using nanotechnology tools and nanoscale materials to enhance the utility or performance of wood- and fiber-based products, understand wood properties at their most fundamental level and how they differ, and develop totally new products will enable the U.S. forest products industry to compete successfully in the increasingly competitive global marketplace.
3. *Biorefinery/bioenergy*—Processing forest feedstocks, such as waste from wood processing plants, tree tops and limbs, and urban waste wood, can produce higher value products, such as ethanol, specialty chemicals, and pharmaceuticals.
4. *Advanced wood structures*—Creating advanced technologies and alternative building methods can greatly enhance the value of wood in residential, nonresidential, and transportation structures.
5. *Advanced composites*—Developing engineered biocomposites to simultaneously meet the nation's diverse needs for high-performance building and commodity products while maximizing the sustainability of forest resources.

Want to know more?

Visit our website for more information on FPL research programs and capabilities. Technical tours are available by appointment for organizations interested in partnering with us. The general public is always welcome to visit our lobby to pick up informational handouts, read displays and watch a video about our research.

