



Table 3 - Timberland Ownership of Major U.S. Forest
Products Companies (1980) in Millions of Acres

<u>Company</u>	<u>Acreage</u>
International Paper	7.1
Weyerhaeuser Company	5.9
Georgia Pacific	4.1
St. Regis	3.2
Champion International	3.0
Scott Paper	1.8
Great Northern	2.7
Boise Cascade	2.6
Crown-Zellerbach	<u>1.7</u>
Total	<u>32.1</u>

In the last ten years, the total area of commercial forests in the southeastern states has increased by less than one (1) percent. Demand for agricultural land and residential housing has more than kept pace with the conversion of land to forest plantations or natural regeneration. There has however been a significant change in the character of the forest ownership. The rate at which forest products corporations have purchased land has decreased over the last five (5) years because the cost of land has increased to approximate the value as agricultural land. The trend in new ownership has come instead from investment seeking groups such as banktrusts, private investment groups, and foreign interests. In 1980, the U. S. Department of Agriculture reported that approximately three (3) percent of all privately held agricultural land in the U.S. is in Georgia, South Carolina, and Alabama. In Georgia the volume of land owned by foreign interests is now equal to that of any one of the three (3) largest land-owning timber corporations - Union Camp Corporation, Georgia Kraft Corporation, or Continental Can Corporation. This change of ownership affects the type of silvicultural management and the availability of timber/fiber resources to the market.

Another influence on the timber supply by the type of forest land ownership is that approximately forty-eight (48) percent of the private non-industrial forest owners do not operate their forest lands primarily for timber production. Of the remaining fifty-two (52) percent, a little more than one-half are able or willing to perform basic silvicultural practices. The reasons that private non-industrial forest landowners do not utilize proper development and management practices on their land is generally lack of funding and the need for more favorable property taxation for timber producing land. In Georgia, as in most of the survey states, the forest land is taxed at a base rate on a county basis and then an ad valorem tax is added by the state based on the age and condition of the tree crop. This results in a widely ranging tax rate per acre which in Georgia is from \$0.34 to \$19.10 per acre.