



Of the softwood growing volume, four (4) species of southern pine predominate both in growth and in harvest. Loblolly Pine (Pinus taeda) makes up sixty (60) percent of the softwood inventory because it is tolerant to nearly all site conditions and is genetically preferable for growth rate, fiber length and suitability for conversion to lumber and veneer. Shortleaf Pine (Pinus echinata) is the second most widely distributed pine because of the compatibility with multiple site conditions. It generally is not utilized for reforestation because of its poor form and high pitch content. The volume of these two pine species is estimated to be fifty-seven million acres. The other two commercial species are Longleaf Pine (Pinus palustris) and Slash Pine (Pinus elliottii) which are generally confined to coastal areas and make up about twenty-five million acres.

Although the hardwood volume in the southern states is considerable, the hardwood timber harvest is quite low and therefore not a significant factor in the forestry equipment market. In certain localized areas specific hardwoods are selectively cut for lumber. There has been a slight increase in the harvest of hardwoods for pulpwood.

Timber Ownership Identification

The four primary sources of wood fiber in the United States, excluding imports, are the National Forests, other public forests, industrially owned lands, and private non-commercial landowners. Table 2 shows the distribution of ownership of commercial forests in 1979, as compiled by the U.S. Forest Service. The large volume of commercial forests contained in the National Forests and other public forests is misleading because only a portion of this timber volume is available for harvesting due to restrictions of volume and dedication of large areas for recreational purposes and wilderness areas. Table 3 is a summary of the reported commercial landholding of the nine largest industrial corporations. The significant feature of this table is that International Paper, the largest forest land owner in the United States, only owns approximately 1.5% of the commercial forest area. Most corporations also purchase timber cutting rights on additional land to expand their fee base. For instance, International Paper is reported to have cutting rights on an additional 1.5 million acres.

Table 2 - Distribution of Ownership of U.S. Commercial Forests (1979)
in Millions of Acres

<u>Type of Ownership</u>	<u>Acreage</u>	<u>Percent Contribution of Annual Timber Supply</u>
National Forests	89	15
Other Federal and Public Lands	47	5
Industrially Owned Lands	68	30
Other Private	<u>283</u>	50
Total	<u>487</u>	