



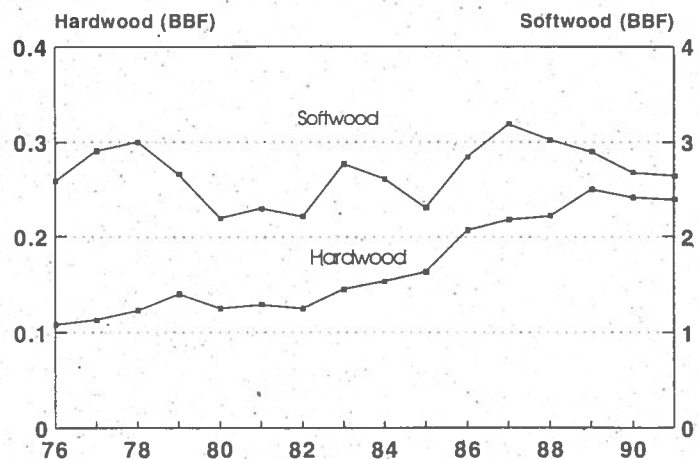
Washington State Hardwood Sawmilling Industry

A growing hardwood industry in the state of Washington has been successful in exporting high-value lumber. Only a small percentage of the hardwood lumber produced is currently utilized in the state, suggesting an opportunity for Washington secondary manufacturers to expand their use of alder and other local hardwood species.

The Washington Hardwood Industry is Booming

- ▲ Hardwood lumber production in the state grew 93% over the period 1980-90, comparing with softwood lumber growth of 24%.
- ▲ Timber consumption by the hardwood sawmilling industry was approximately 340 million board feet in 1990, of which 93% was western red alder.
- ▲ The hardwood sawmills, all located in rural communities, employ about 850 people.
- ▲ Hardwood lumber represents almost eight percent of the total lumber produced in the state.
- ▲ Red alder lumber prices at the wholesale level have increased by 40% in four years.
- ▲ Most hardwood lumber produced in Washington is leaving the state. Only about seven percent is utilized locally.
- ▲ Higher-grade hardwood lumber is used mainly for furniture where the wood is visible (21%), and for cabinets (22%). Upholstered furniture (17%), together with pallets (33%), are the principal end products for low-grade hardwood lumber.

Lumber Production Western Washington





Rural Industries— Exporting Successfully

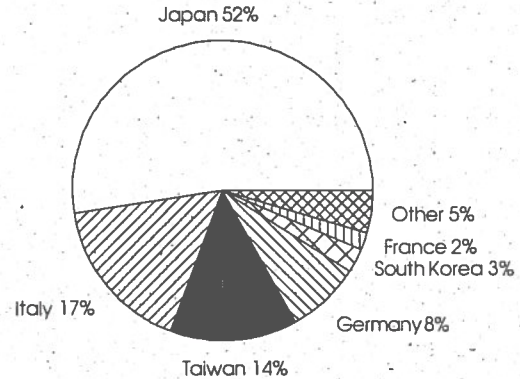
- Foreign markets, buying most of the higher quality products, take about 36% of the industry's production.
- The most important single market for alder lumber during the last decade has been Japan, even though its share has been declining recently. The new and expanding market is in Europe, especially Germany, as producers substitute alder and other temperate species for tropical timber imports.
- Red alder is the number three hardwood species exported from the US.

Red alder, the major hardwood species of Pacific Northwest, represents an underutilized timber resource. It is a fast-growing, nitrogen-fixing species; it has excellent wood characteristics, and demand for it is growing in domestic and international markets. All of these factors combine to make red alder a potentially important species for forest owners, for sawmills, and for secondary manufacturers in the region.

For more information, contact CINTRAFOR and ask about the following publication:

"Pacific Northwest Hardwoods Capture International Attention: An Analysis of the Washington State Hardwood Industry," Working Paper No. 37

Export of Alder Lumber 1991



Destination of Hardwood Lumber Produced in Washington Domestic sales

