Wood products that we easily recognize are lumber, utility poles, paper, firewood, oriented-strand board, furniture, cardboard boxes, flooring, cabinets, fences, and many others.

Other common products that contain elements of wood or trees include toothpaste, medicines, inks, clothing, jelly, cosmetics, glues, animal bedding, wax, maple syrup, vitamins, cleaning compounds, turpentine, ethanol, oxygen and carbon dioxide, cereal, ice cream, coffee, chocolate, cinnamon, and lots of other things.

For every 1000 trees, from 2006 to 2010 . . .

- 24 new trees grew,
- 12 trees were harvested,
- 9 trees died from insects & diseases.

The vast majority of Michigan’s forests regenerate naturally, often from conditions created by harvesting. Seeds, stump sprouts, and root suckers are the most common ways that trees reproduce. However, in some cases, planting is necessary which results in about 13 million trees planted each year for reforestation or afforestation.

Changing forests mean changing habitats, either by nature or by management.

Most of Michigan’s nearly 600 species of vertebrates depend upon forests for at least part of their life cycle or habitat requirements.

Our Growing Resource

An Update on Michigan’s forest, based on 2010 inventory data from the USDA Forest Service.

Prepared by MSU Extension.
Forest Facts

- Inventories since 1935 show steady forest growth in area, volume, and average diameter.
- Michigan has about 14 billion trees.
- Over half of Michigan’s forest is open to hunting, fishing, hiking, and other activities.
- Third-party forest certification applies to over a third of Michigan’s forest, helping to ensure sustainable supplies of wood, with social and environmental benefits.
- Michigan is a net importer of wood.
- Michigan is about 55% forested but was once nearly 100% forested.
- The main cause of deforestation was agriculture, followed by area occupied by cities, towns, roads, etc.
- Over 70% of the nation’s forest lies east of the Mississippi River.
- Over 5000 different things are made of wood or contain wood products.
- Wood is renewable, as well as recyclable, reusable, and reducible. Processing of wood products uses less energy than other raw materials.
- The forest industry is Michigan’s third largest manufacturing sector.

Michigan’s forests support about 136,000 jobs and add $17 billion to Michigan’s economy.

DO YOU KNOW . . .

Michigan’s Major Forest Types in 2010

- Northern Hardwood
- Aspen
- Swamp Hardwood
- Oak
- Mixed Upland Hardwood
- Cedar
- Swamp Conifer
- Red Pine
- Jack Pine
- Upland Conifer
- White Pine
- Other Types

Michigan’s Most Common Tree Species

1. sugar maple
2. red maple
3. n. white cedar
4. red pine
5. quaking aspen
6. n. red oak
7. white pine
8. bigtooth aspen
9. hemlock
10. basswood

3% Other Private
14% Corporate
15% Federal
23% State & Local
46% Individual

Michigan’s annual forest growth is 2.3 times the amount harvested.