

Fruits & Nuts

North Carolina's forests are among the state's most valuable natural resources. They help keep the state's water and air clean, provide habitat for wildlife and places for recreation. Forests make our state one of the most beautiful in the country.

In addition, our forests provide more than 5,000 products that we all use and depend on every day. But unlike fossil fuels, metals, and other resources, forests are renewable. With proper stewardship and management, our forests will continue to provide all of these benefits for generations to come.

The fruits, nuts, berries, and seeds of many trees are an important source of food for wildlife and people. Some of the most common of these are apples, peaches, pecans, walnuts, coffee, and spices such as mace and nutmeg.



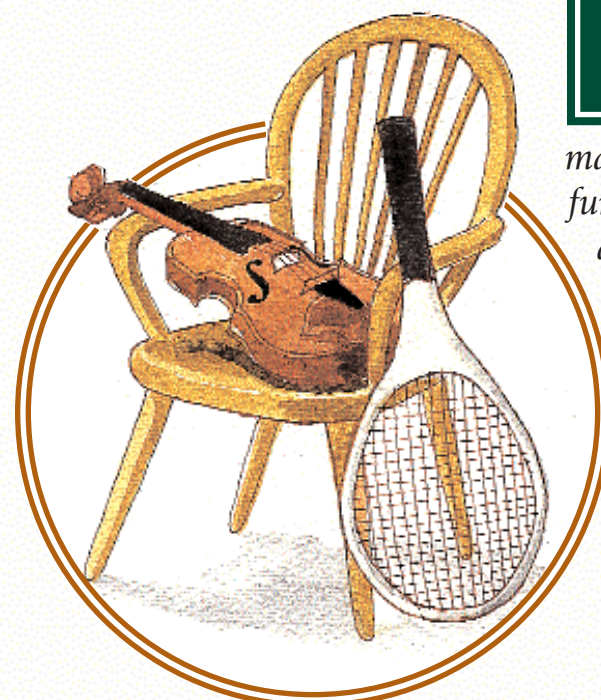
Bark

Bark is used for a variety of purposes ranging from medicine to garden mulch to seasoning for foods. The willow tree, for example, provides the essential elements of aspirin, while the laurel tree provides cinnamon used to flavor many foods. Cork for wine bottles and fishing tackle comes from the cork oak tree. Bark also is burned to produce energy and used as a dye for fabrics, shoe polishes, and other products.



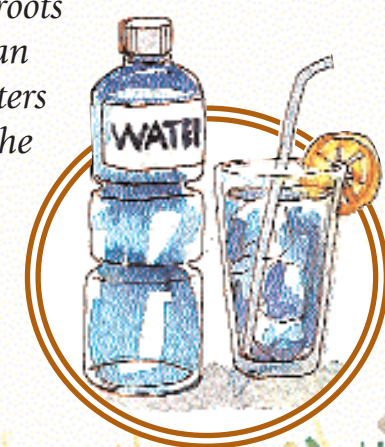
Trunk

The trunks of trees are primarily used to make solid wood products such as furniture, musical instruments, lumber, and handles for tools and sporting equipment. Trunks also are peeled into thin sheets and used as veneer for plywood and furniture.



Stumps

Pine stumps provide the wood rosin and liquid terpenes used in making many products, including orange flavored soft drinks, pine cleaners, and laundry detergents. Hardwood stumps readily produce sprouts that grow into new trees, assuring that we have plentiful hardwood forests for the future.



Roots

In addition to providing food for the tree, roots play an important role in keeping our waters free of pollutants. They stabilize the soil to prevent erosion and sedimentation, and by absorbing nutrients to feed the tree, they prevent these nutrients from entering our rivers and streams.

Foliage

While growing on a tree, leaves produce oxygen, help filter pollutants from the air, provide shelter for many wildlife species, and shade to help keep us cool. When harvested, leaves of the carnauba tree are used to produce furniture polish, car wax, crayons, lipstick, and the coating on many medicine tablets. Whole leaves from other trees such as bay, are used in cooking, while the oils of leaves such as the eucalyptus are extracted for fragrances and flavorings.



Branches

The branches of large trees and the trunks of smaller trees are used to make thousands of paper products, including writing paper, tissues and boxes. Chemical by-products of the paper-making process are used in producing cleaning compounds, skin lotions, artificial vanilla flavoring, photographic film, and many molded plastic products such as eyeglass frames, football helmets, toothbrushes and buttons.



Gums

Gums, which are found in the sap of trees, are used in the manufacture of a variety of products including food, adhesives, paints, and medicines. In foods, gums serve as thickening agents, provide a creamy texture, act as binders to keep ingredients from separating, and help retain moisture. In ice cream and other frozen desserts, gums prevent the formation of crystals. The gums of some trees are used to make adhesives such as glue and hair spray, and act as drying agents in paint and printing ink. Other gums have antiseptic properties and are used in making soaps and cough syrups.



Sap

Syrup is the most well-known sap product. The sugar maple of the eastern United States is tapped for its sweet sap, which is used to make maple syrup.



Goods from the Woods

