



DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOREST SERVICE

NEWS RELEASE

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New Poster Celebrates National Forest Products Week *2008 Celebration: October 19th to October 25th*



Poster from the
Delaware Forest Service

In September of 1960, the United States Congress established the third week in October as “National Forest Products Week.” The resolution was intended “to reemphasize to each citizen in the United States the importance and heritage of our vast forest resources which are inseparably tied to our present and our future.”

The bill further directed that: “The seven-day period beginning on the third Sunday of October in each year is hereby designated as National Forest Products Week, and the President is requested to issue annually a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe such week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.”

The Delaware Forest Service is committed to spreading the message that “wood is good.” Not only are trees a renewable resource (they can be grown, harvested, replanted and even recycled) - wood products provide an abundance of important products that often go unnoticed in our daily lives.

To remind children about these many products, DFS Education Specialist Ashley Ward has designed a new poster to distribute to Delaware schools. It illustrates how different kinds of products are made from trees. Many are surprising: from the medicine L-Dopa for treating Parkinson's Disease ... to toothbrushes and even mouthwash! Trees provide fruit, nuts, wood, sap, bark, cellulose and pulp - useful raw materials for manufacturing a wide range of products.

In addition to the fruits and nuts for enjoyable eating, each tree creates its own unique wood - truly one of nature's beautiful treasures. Wood has been a cornerstone of house construction, ship building, furniture-making and flooring products for thousands of years. But trees are now put to use in many modern, high-tech ways as well.

When trees are used to make lumber and plywood, the leftover chips, bark and sawdust are made into wood pulp for paper and other products. Not too long ago, those leftovers might have been burned as waste. Nowadays, forest products operations are very efficient at using every part of a tree. Little is wasted.

Wood is made of tiny fibers (**cellulose**) and the natural glue that holds them together (**lignin**). When wood is turned into pulp for paper, heat and chemicals dissolve the lignin and release the cellulose fibers. Byproducts of this process are used in asphalt, paint, chewing gum, detergents and turpentine. Cellulose is used for paper and much, much more. It is used to produce helmets, toothbrushes and electrical outlets. Other refined

cellulose products include rayon fabric, and nitrocellulose which is used to make nail polish, solid rocket fuel and industrial explosives.

Wood pulp and by-products are used for many different things, ranging from cleaning compounds, deodorants and hair spray, to artificial vanilla flavoring, medicines and cosmetics. Torula yeast, produced from wood sugars separated in the pulping process, is a high-protein product used in baby foods, cereals, imitation bacon, pet foods and baked goods. Other **silvichemicals** (chemicals from trees) are so much a part of our civilization that we take them for granted. But they wouldn't exist without wood and wood products.

Sap is an important forest product. Trees such as the sugar maple provide the sap that is used to make maple syrup –an important part of delicious pancakes and waffles. Latex is another sap-like compound that is derived from the rubber tree: it helps make automotive tires, latex gloves, and many important products.

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Tree bark is a wonderful example. Bark is used for landscaping and generating electricity for paper and lumber mills. Cork, used for flooring and to seal glass bottles, is really the bark of the cork tree, which the tree replenishes after being peeled away. The bark of the willow tree was the source for the discovery of salicylic acid – otherwise known as aspirin, one of mankind's most important drugs. Trees are truly a miracle resource!

A PDF version of the National Forest Products Week poster is available at www.delawareforest.com.

For more information, call Ashley Ward at 302-698-4551 or go to <http://dda.delaware.gov/forestry>.