



As parttime research assistants, graduate students become involved in investigations in the Forest Products Laboratory at the Richmond Field Station near Berkeley. The lab's nine faculty members serve as project leaders. Faculty members hold dual appointments: as researchers in the Agricultural Experiment Station and as graduate and undergraduate teachers of wood science and technology in the Department of Forestry and Resource Management.

Forest Products Laboratory

When the University of California's Forest Products Laboratory came into being in the early 1950's, its research dealt principally with the processing and use of lumber and associated products from virgin pine, fir, and redwood forests in northern California. Attention was also directed to the processing and use of the state's large quantity of hardwoods.

Research priorities have changed. By the middle 1960's second-growth or young-growth forests were becoming common in California, and our research gave more attention to the processing and use of wood from trees less than 100 years old.

Today's research, now concentrated on the harvesting of young-growth forests, is more concerned with utilizing all of the harvested tree (including the bark) and the development of new processes for bonding wood and for improving sawing and cutting methods. Increasing restrictions on the number of trees that can be harvested each year for all purposes and the growing demand for wood products at a reasonable price require that as much of the harvested tree

be utilized as is economically feasible. This development has also intensified the need for maximum recovery of the primary products from logs such as lumber and veneer.

Environmental concerns have also influenced research. The current programs include studies designed to reduce or eliminate noise, water, and air pollution related to wood-processing.

Also of growing research importance is improving the performance of wood in use: better design procedures for wood structural elements, improved prediction of the performance of wood structural members, and detection and prevention of wood deterioration through fungal attack.

Graduate students and some undergraduates are intimately involved in the research work of the Forest Products Laboratory. This training will stand them in good stead when they leave the University to pursue careers in research and management in industry and public institutions.

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