

# FORESTRY *Leaflets*

North Carolina Division of Forest Resources

FM-17

## THINNING YOUR STAND FOR FUEL WOOD



Forked Tree That Should Be Cut For Firewood

North Carolina has 250,000 small woodland owners, and many of these could improve their woodlots by thinning or removing the less desirable stems for fuelwood purposes. In other words, the crooked, forked, suppressed, diseased and otherwise poorer formed trees could be utilized as fuelwood. This would allow the tall, straight, better quality trees more room to grow.

Of course, the drier the wood the more heat value you can realize. In North Carolina it is recommended you allow your wood to air dry for six to eight months for best heat results.

Some of the better wood fuels include: black locust, hickory, dogwood, black birch, ash, beech, apple, oak, maple and pine. A conscientious forest owner will remove the poorer quality trees of these species, regardless of their size, and burn them as fuel.

The North Carolina Division of Forest Resources will be glad to train you how to select those trees from your woodlot that could be utilized as fuelwood. For assistance contact your local Forest Ranger.



Improved Stand - After Fuelwood Harvest

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