Md. researcher studies timber uses

COLLEGE PARK, Md. - A research scientist for the Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station has been named by the U.S. Forest Service to conduct a two-year, \$26,000 study of uses for eastern U.S. hardwood tree species.

Hardwoods such as oak are an

With highest demands from the timber industry for softwoods like pine for construction, hardwoods are often neglected, says Hardie.

'Hardwood forests today produce more wood and is being harvested," he says. "Many of these trees are too small to be highly profitable or are held by private owners of small parcels of

when we have high-priced energy,

timber," says Hardie. "The same situation offers us the opportunity to improve the management of our vast hardwood resources."

Not only could increased harvests of hardwoods benefit industries such as pulp manufac-

dwindling supplies of softwood turing - where 60-70 percent of the pulp for many papers comes from hardwoods - but their harvest could improve the overall value of subsequent stands of timber.

More useable wood material can be harvested if it is efficiently handled, according to Hardie, who

says he will investigate the economic feasibility of harvesting stands of softwoods and hardwoods together, then sorting the two to provide wood processors with more uniform raw products.

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