

TECHNICAL NOTE NUMBER 119

FOREST PRODUCTS LABORATORY - U. S. FOREST SERVICE - MADISON, WISCONSIN

STRENGTH OF SOUTHERN PINE AND DOUGLAS FIR COMPARED

There is little difference between the strength of the southern pines and that of Douglas fir from the Pacific Northwest, tests made at the United States Forest Products Laboratory show. True longleaf yellow pine averages heavier, stronger, and tougher than Douglas fir. True shortleaf pine averages heavier and tougher than the fir, but is about equal to it in strength as a beam or post. Loblolly pine, though averaging heavier than the fir, is somewhat weaker. The difference in strength between any of these pines and Douglas fir, however, is not so great but that low density pieces of the one species are weaker than the average for the other species.

As far as strength properties are concerned, the choice between any two lots of southern pine and Douglas fir will depend upon the grade and density of the timber composing each lot. The Rocky Mountain type of Douglas fir averages considerably weaker than the Pacific Coast type.