



EVALUATION OF DECAY AND TERMITE RESISTANCE OF TIMBER INDUSTRIAL MATS

A McIntire - Stennis Supported Project

Industrial wood matting, also known as cribbing, temporary work platforms or surfaces, serve primarily as temporary access materials for the construction and maintenance of electrical transmission infrastructure. However, only a few studies have been conducted on mechanical properties of wood industrial mats (WIM), and no data is available on its performance under decay and termite exposure. The goal of this research is to evaluate the resistance of WIM to biodegradation and termite attack.

The results of this project will close gaps in the practical knowledge related to wood industrial mats and provide information for wood industrial mats manufacturers, so they can predict the life span of the product. It will also encourage growth in consumption of wood products in the construction industry.



COLLABORATION

Collaborators include the USDA Forest Products Lab.

IMPACTS



Wood industrial mats minimize environmental impacts.



Wood used in industrial mats comes from the portion of the log that cannot be sawn into usable grade lumber and maximizes the value of each milled log.



New visual grading system to evaluate the material is being created.

ABOUT MCINTIRE-STENNIS

The McIntire-Stennis program, a unique federal-state partnership, cultivates and delivers forestry and natural resource innovations for a better future. By advancing research and education that increases the understanding of emerging challenges and fosters the development of relevant solutions, the McIntire-Stennis program has ensured healthy resilient forests and communities and an exceptional natural resources workforce since 1962.

