

U.S. Wood Pallet Material Use Trends



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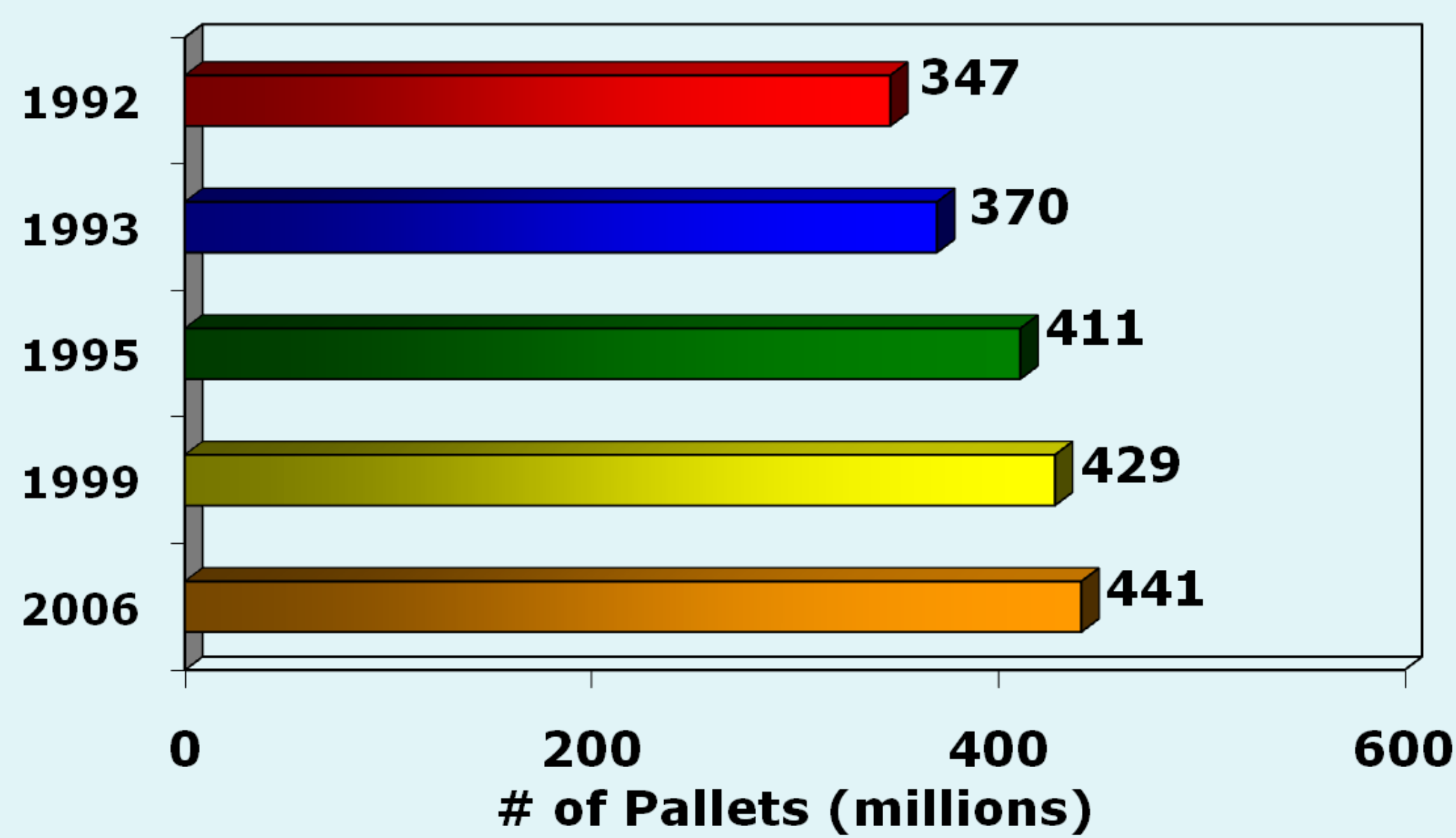


Abstract: In North America, large volumes of wood are used to move, store and ship products. For example, we estimate that 7.26 billion board feet (approximately 17.1 million m³) of new solid wood were utilized by the U.S. wood container and pallet manufacturing industry alone in 2006. During the same year, we estimate that 5.09 billion board feet (approx. 12.0 million m³) were recovered for reuse and recycling. This is a major wood using industry in the U.S. and the world. We will briefly characterize the types of wood materials and estimate the recovery, repair, reuse, and recycling of wood materials by firms within the industry.

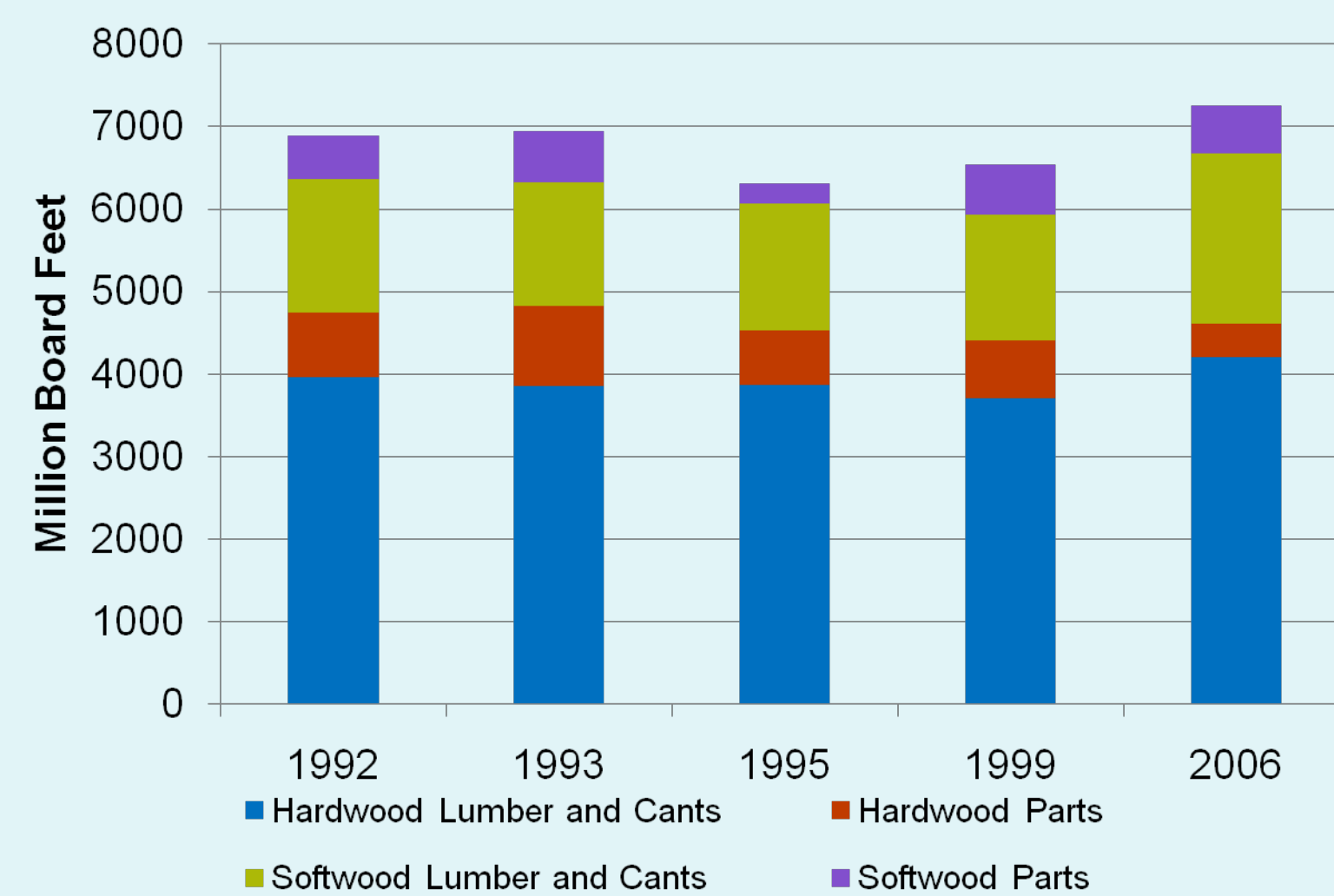
Wood pallets make up 90-95% of the total pallet market in the U.S. – this is our focus.



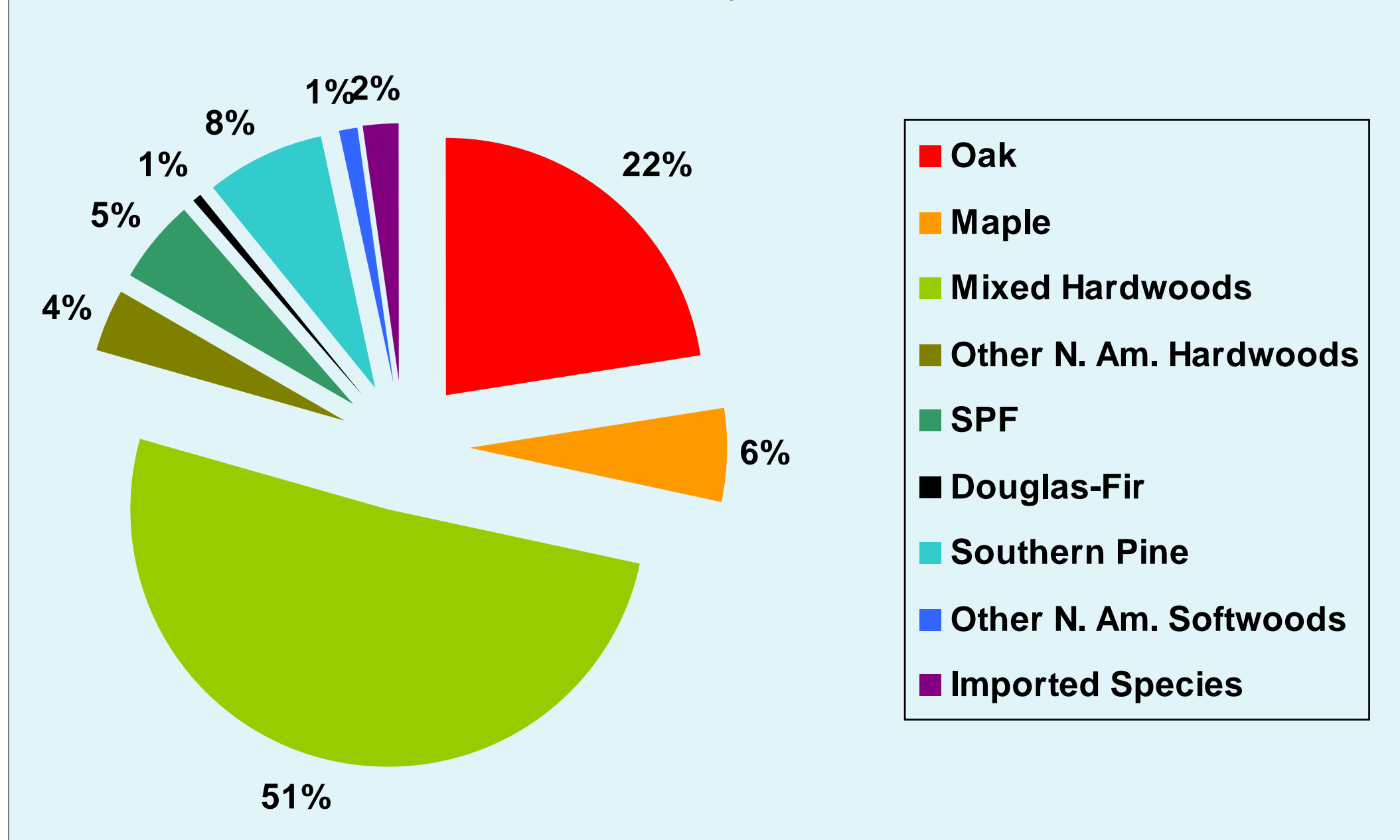
Trends in new pallet production have been up



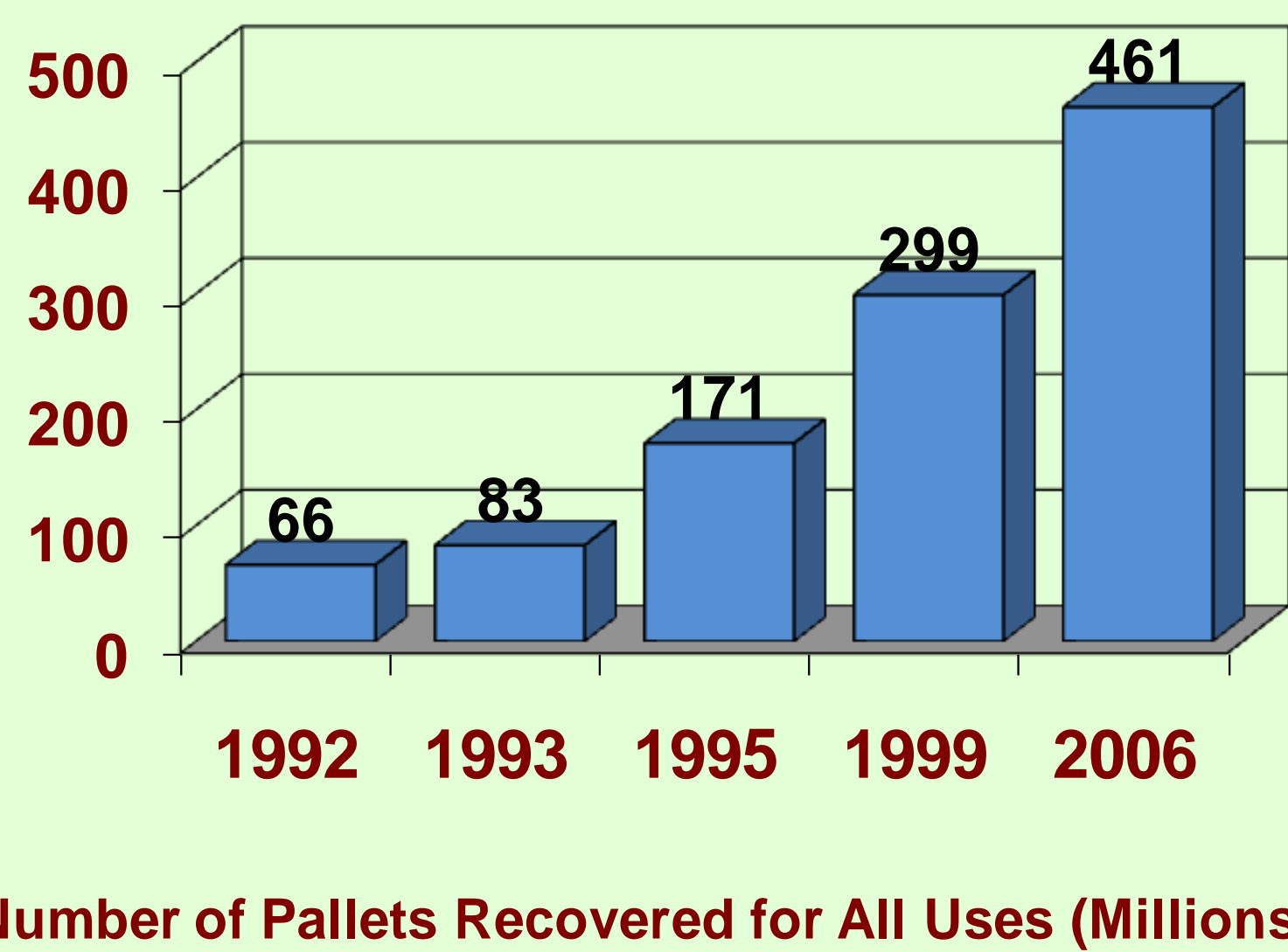
Estimates of new wood volumes used by the U.S. wood pallet and container manufacturing industry: 1992 to 2006



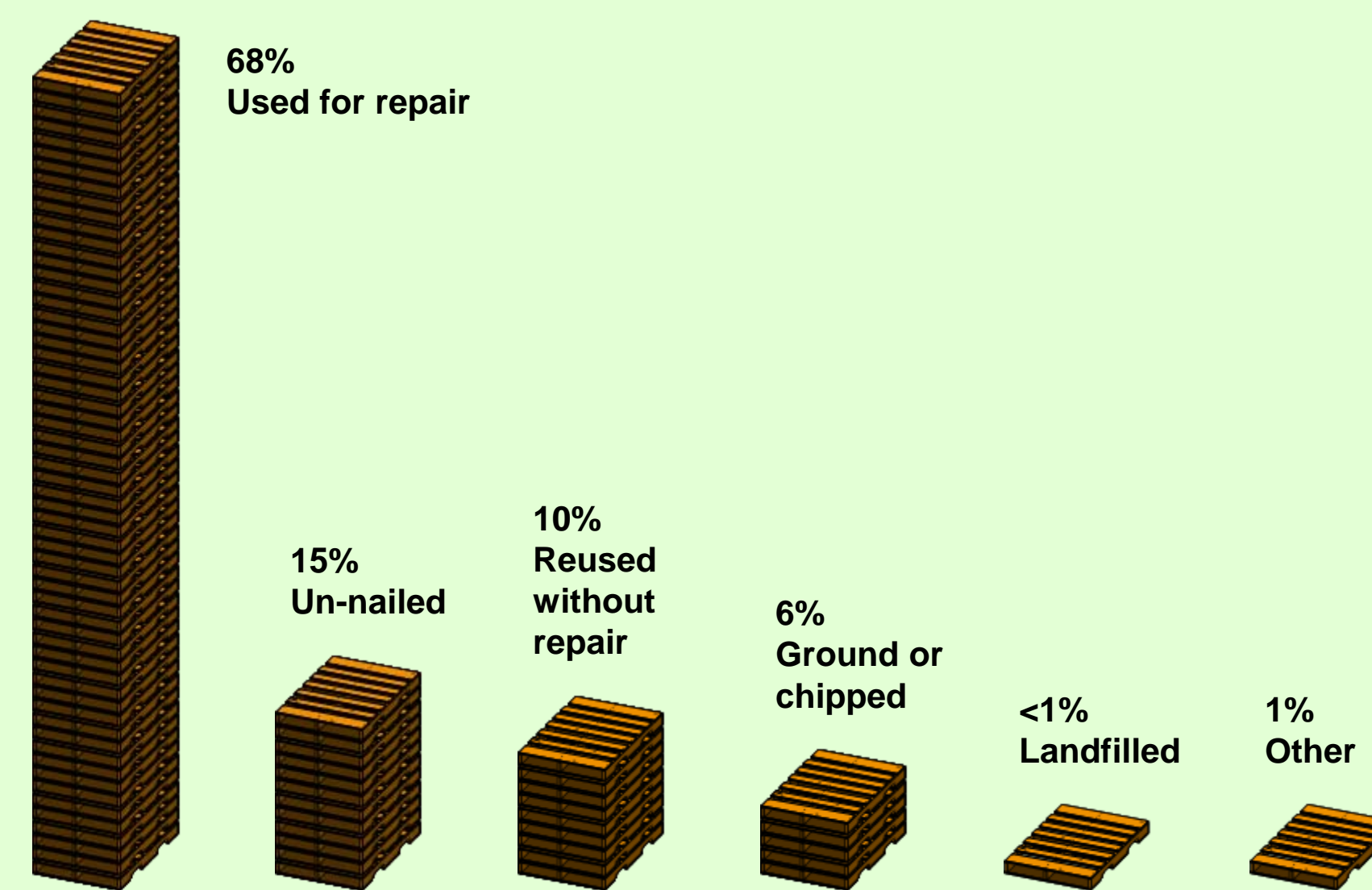
Solid Wood Use by Species (2006)



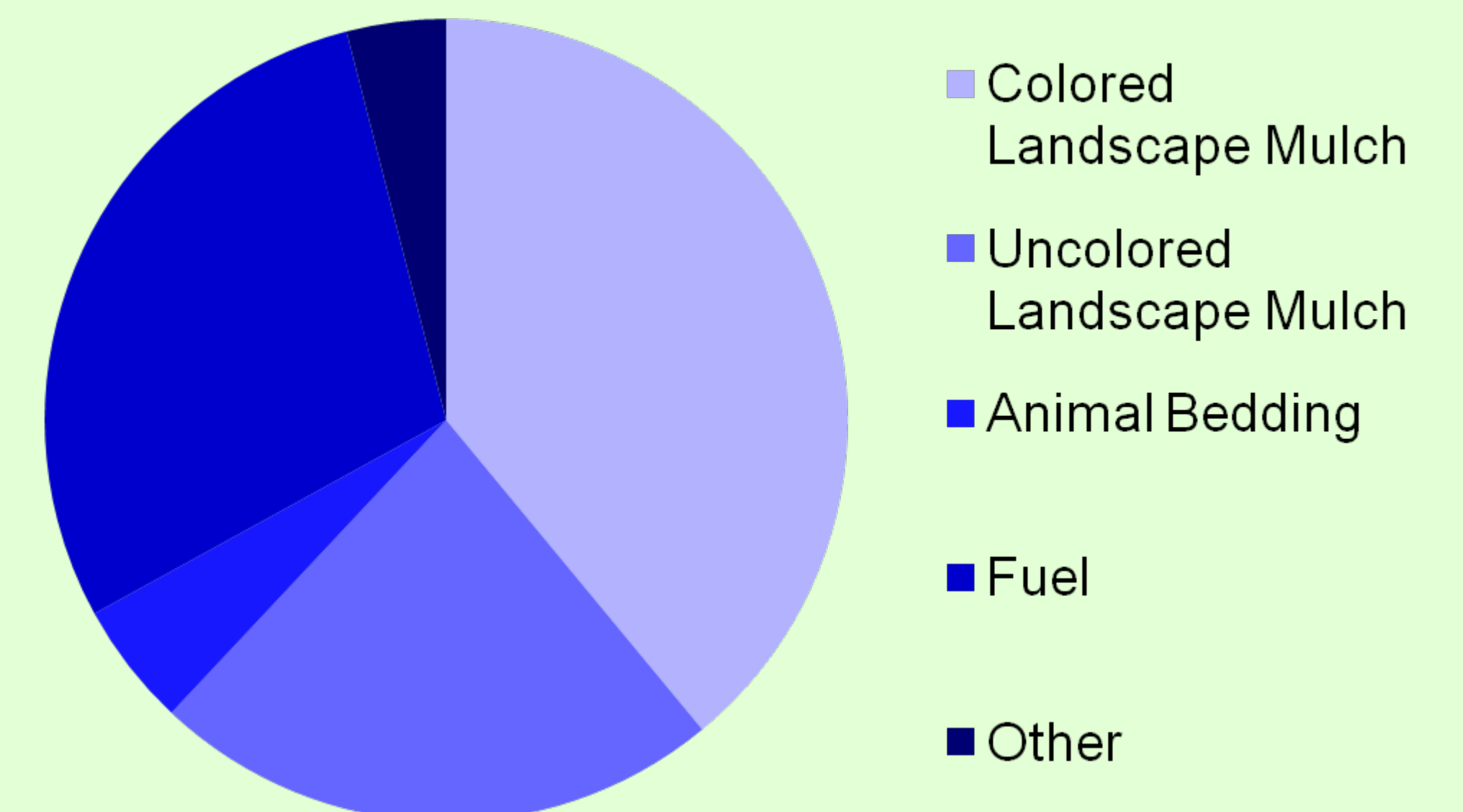
Numbers of wood pallets recovered by pallet companies



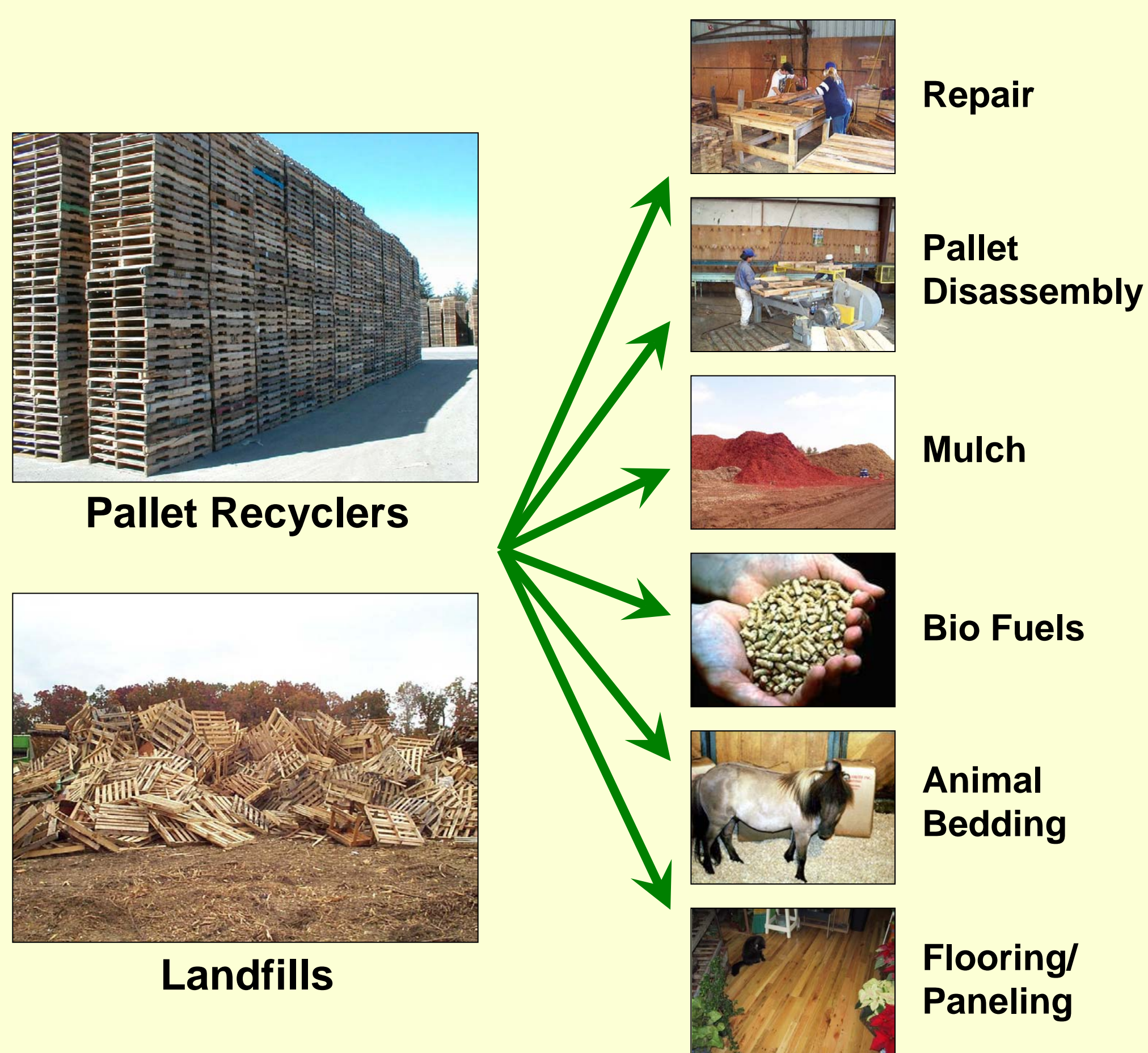
What happens to the recovered pallets? – Most were reused in 2006 (this appears to be typical)



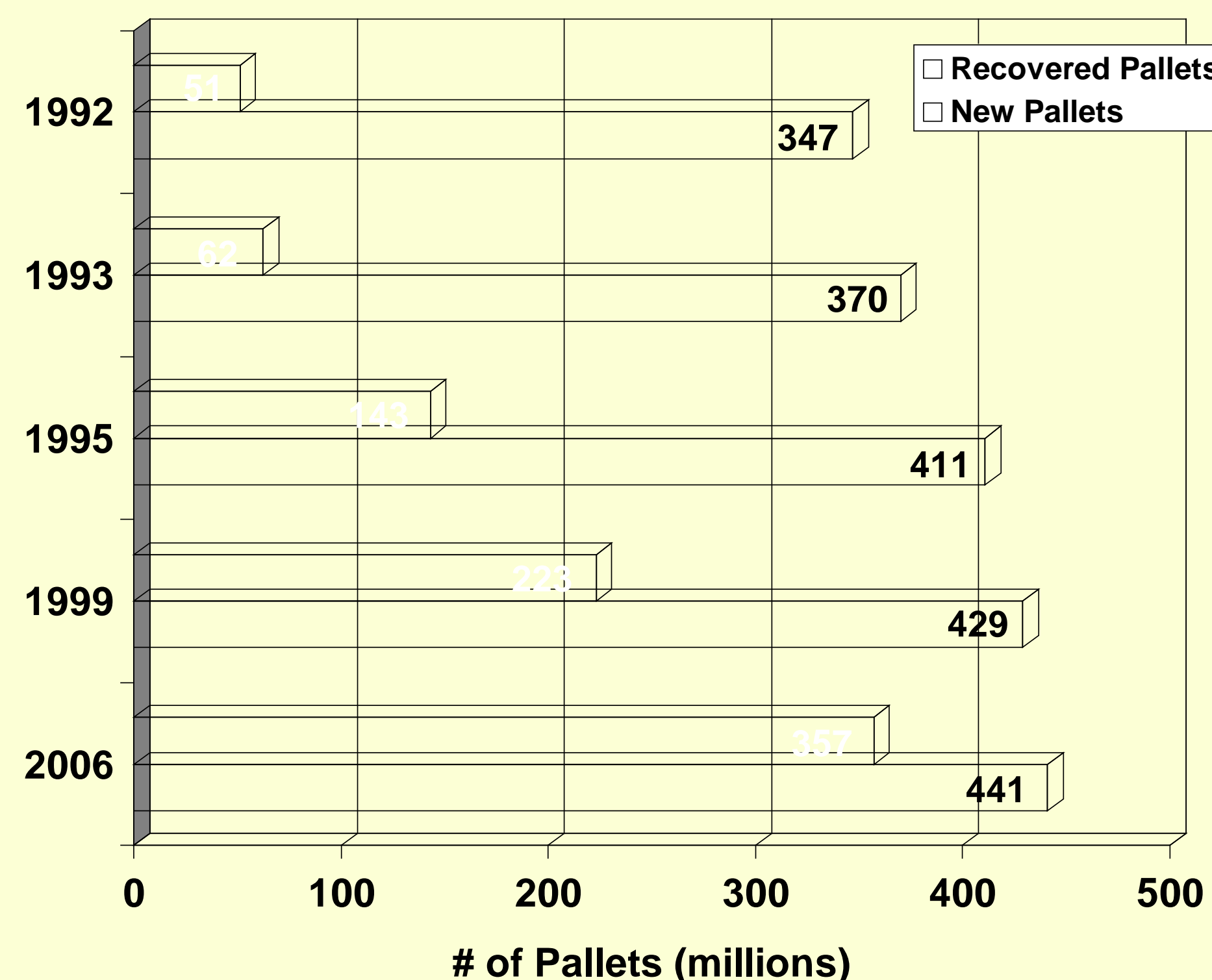
Use of ground/chipped recycled pallet materials.



The Pallet Recovery/Reuse/Recycling Options



New pallets compared to pallets recovered, repaired, rebuilt and sold to pallet users



Equivalent numbers of trees saved from being harvested yearly because of pallets recovered, repaired, rebuilt and sold to pallet users

