

Naval Stores



Former trees used for naval stores. Note the cavities at the base of each tree and the herring-bone pattern due to chipping.

The term ‘naval stores’ refers to products made from the resin of pine trees. Naval stores originated when wooden ships were waterproofed using pitch, tar, and other resinous pine products. The French first utilized pine resin in the northeastern United States from pitch pine, *Pinus rigida*. Later, the production of naval stores switched to longleaf pine, *Pinus palustris*, and slash pine, *Pinus elliottii*.

Resin is naturally produced in all pines in resin ducts. Resin was obtained by progressively removing the bark and a small amount of wood by chipping in a herring-bone pattern. Bark and wood removal allowed resin to flow from existing ducts into cavities chipped in the base of the trees. Later, clay pots and metal tins replaced the cavities. Today, resin is obtained as a byproduct from papermills.

Glossary