

and other pine areas to the south and west. Georgia led the nation in naval stores production from 1880 until about 1905 when Florida took the lead. Georgia regained its position as top producer in 1923 and retains this lead today.

Except for improved methods of chipping trees and more advanced equipment for receiving and processing pine gum, the basic techniques of the tar and turpentine industry have changed little since the late 1700's. In the early days of

the industry, a cavity or "box" was cut into the base of the tree itself to serve as a reservoir for the gum. This practice was known as "boxing".

Unfortunately, this system had many disadvantages. After the first or second year of working a tree, the gum had quite a distance to run before draining into the box. This caused the gum to harden on the surface which resulted in a loss of turpentine content and in lower grade rosin. Also, gum accumulated



In the early days of Georgia's naval stores industry, a box or cavity was cut into the base of pine trees to serve as a reservoir for the gum. Here workers are shown gathering the gum and scoring (wounding) the trees to allow the gum to flow freely into the boxes.

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