Oak Markets & Trends

Lloyd C. Irland
MFS Growing Oaks in Maine Workshop
Gray, ME Nov. 8, 2013
Principal Points

• Oak’s history as valuable wood is well known
• Past century a hard time to be an oak in Maine
• Resource is Coming Back!
• Price relationships change but remain positive
• Low grade markets are critical
1. White oak lumber catches up to Red Oak
2. Premium for FAS shrinks

Thanks to Bill Luppold, USFS
In many Appearance uses, Oak is the “base” price.
Still worthwhile growing for size/grade (Maine stumpage reports)
Last 2 decades, Stumpage premiums moved in Opposite directions

But the ratios are still highly favorable.
Maine has weakest Oak Stumpage Market in Northeast
Lyptus – new entrant in premium market: in your showrooms now!


Cabinets; also well established in flooring
Summary Points on Markets

• Traditionally, “Oak was king”.
• Oak’s appearance markets are getting more crowded.
• But its market recognition remains strong.
• Don’t rely on a comeback to the early 00’s price peaks.
• If you grow for quality you’ll have few competitors!