

# Steam-Pressed Scrim Lumber (SPSL): A developing new material for bridges

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Shane C. Kitchens

R. Dan Seale, Terry L. Amburgey, H. Michael Barnes

Forest Products Department

Mississippi State University

# History

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# TimTek Technology Development..... A Cooperative Effort Between

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**Timtek**

**Forest and Wildlife Research Center**

**Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment  
Station**

**Mississippi State University**

**Mississippi State University Research Technology  
Corporation**

**State of Mississippi**

**CSIRO**

**Val Jule**

# Plantation Forests etc....

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# Construction of Research Facility at Mississippi State

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Franklin Center Construction

Timtek Building Construction



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# Serial #1 Machine Centers

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□ March 15, 2003 at Shuqualak, MS



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First Scrim made  
in Mississippi –  
March 19, 2003



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August 8, 2003 –  
Moving to MSU

FASS	ORDER 1	CROSS 1
1	5	OPEN
2	3A	OPEN
3	3A	CLOSED
4	2	CLOSED
5	1	CLOSED



CRUSH MILL ROLLER  
AND CONVEYOR



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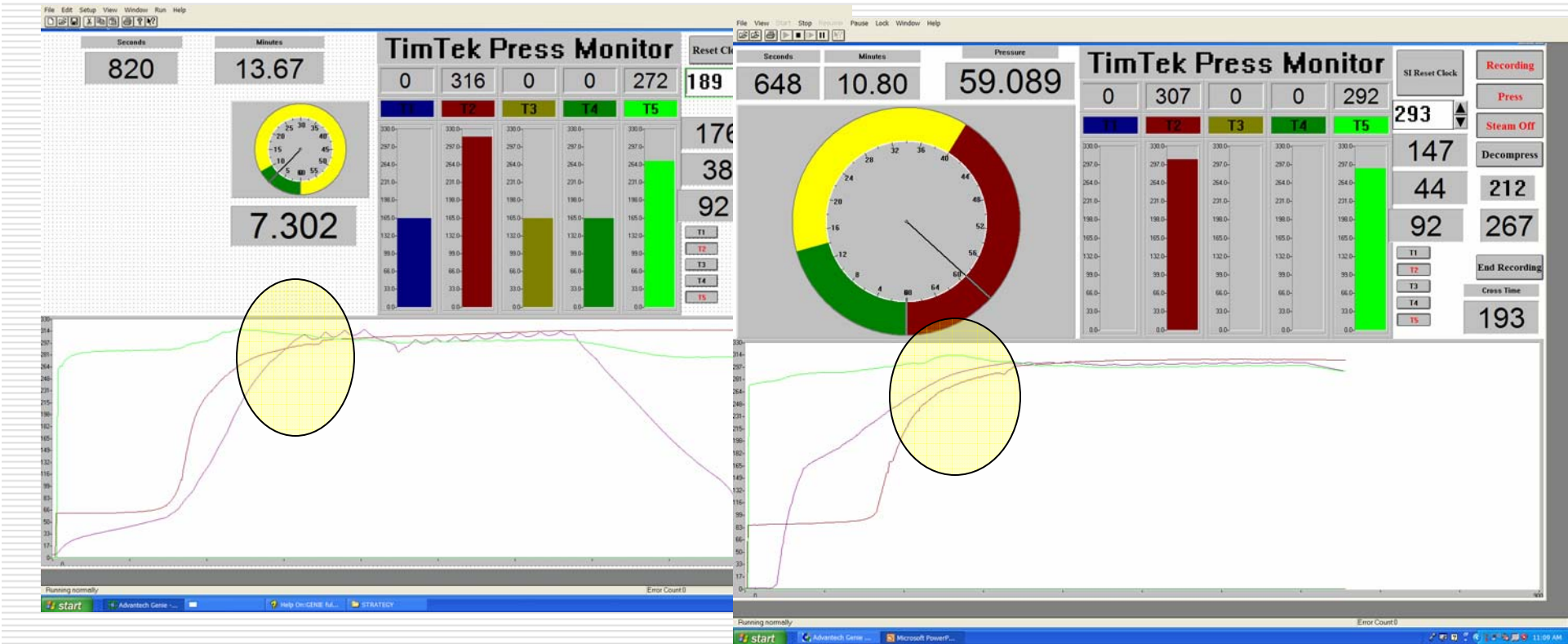
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# Development and Mechanical Properties

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# Data Collected on over 200 Test Beams

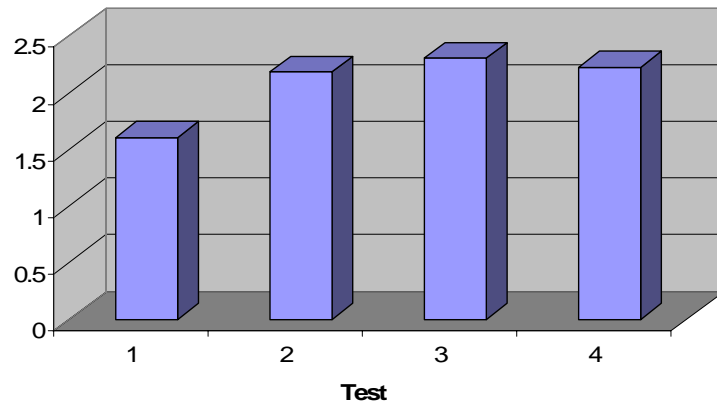


Current monitor and cycle that has brought consistency to the process at MSU

# Performance Improvements

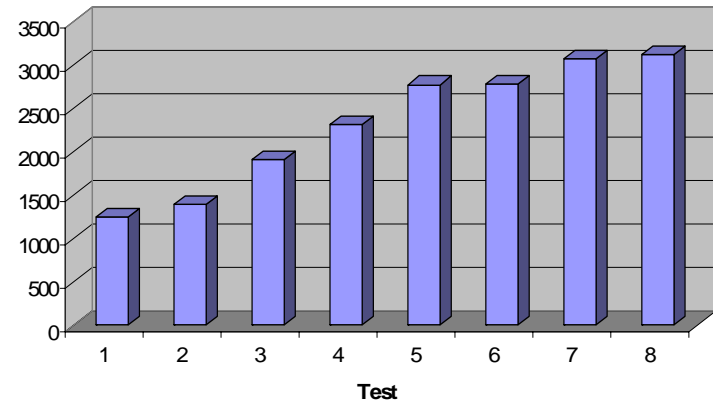
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MOE by Test



MOE hit targets early!

Fb by Test



Fb – has steadily climbed!



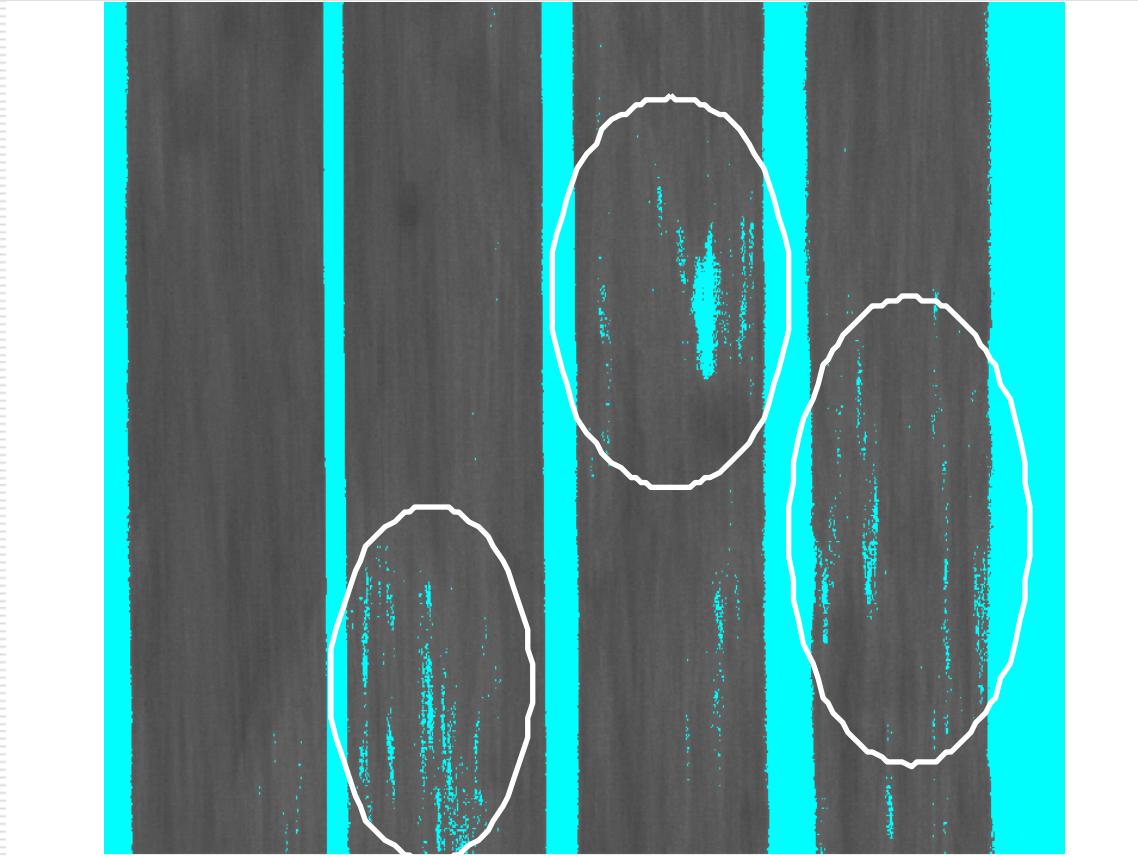
# Property Testing Results

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- Design values for southern pine SPSL
- Basic mechanical properties for SPSL from ponderosa and lodgepole pines

# X-ray useful in determining low density areas

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# Design values for southern pine SPSL have been established

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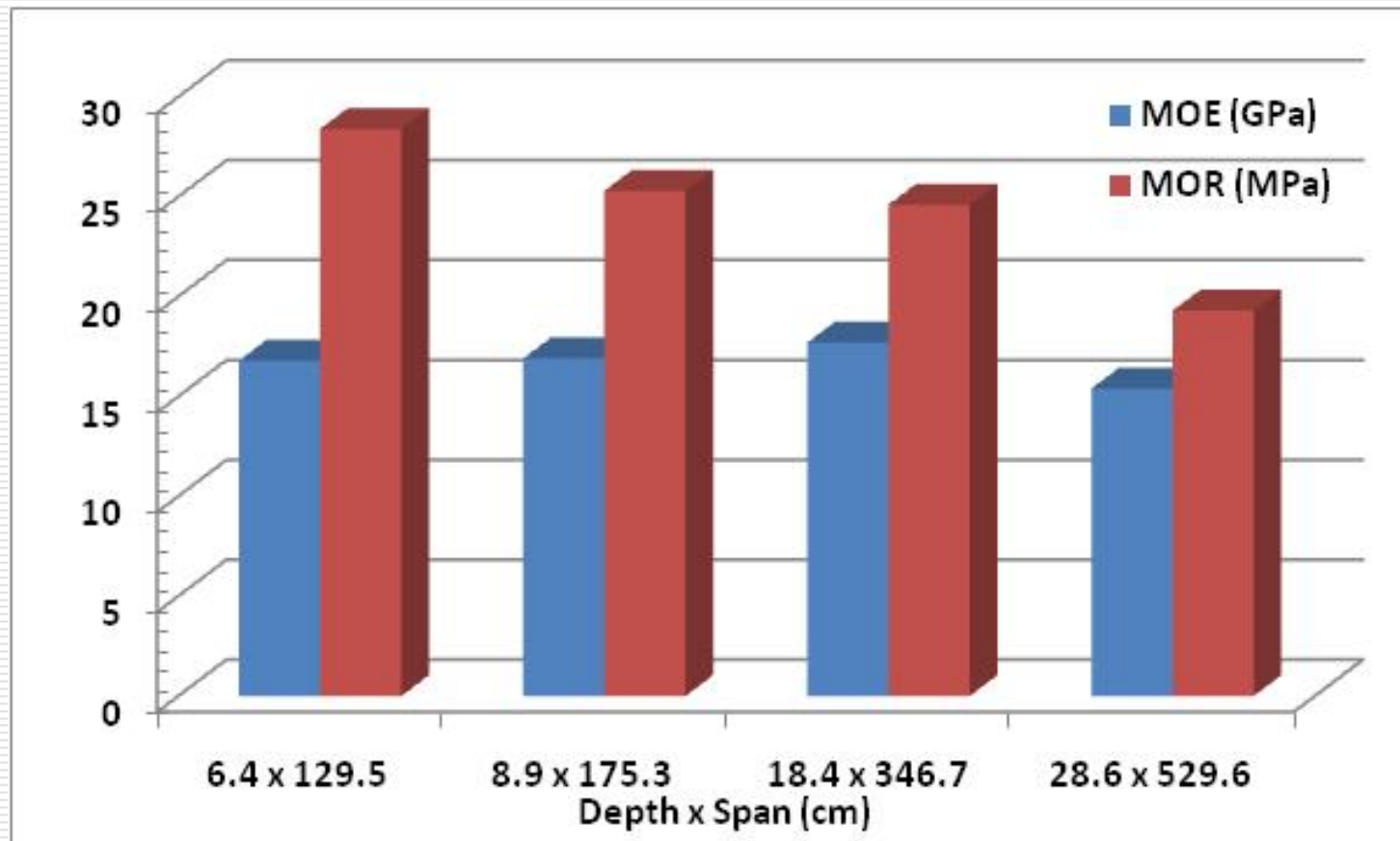
Depending on depth and span:

❑ MOR = 19.3 – 28.4 MPa

❑ MOE = 15.4 – 17.7 Gpa

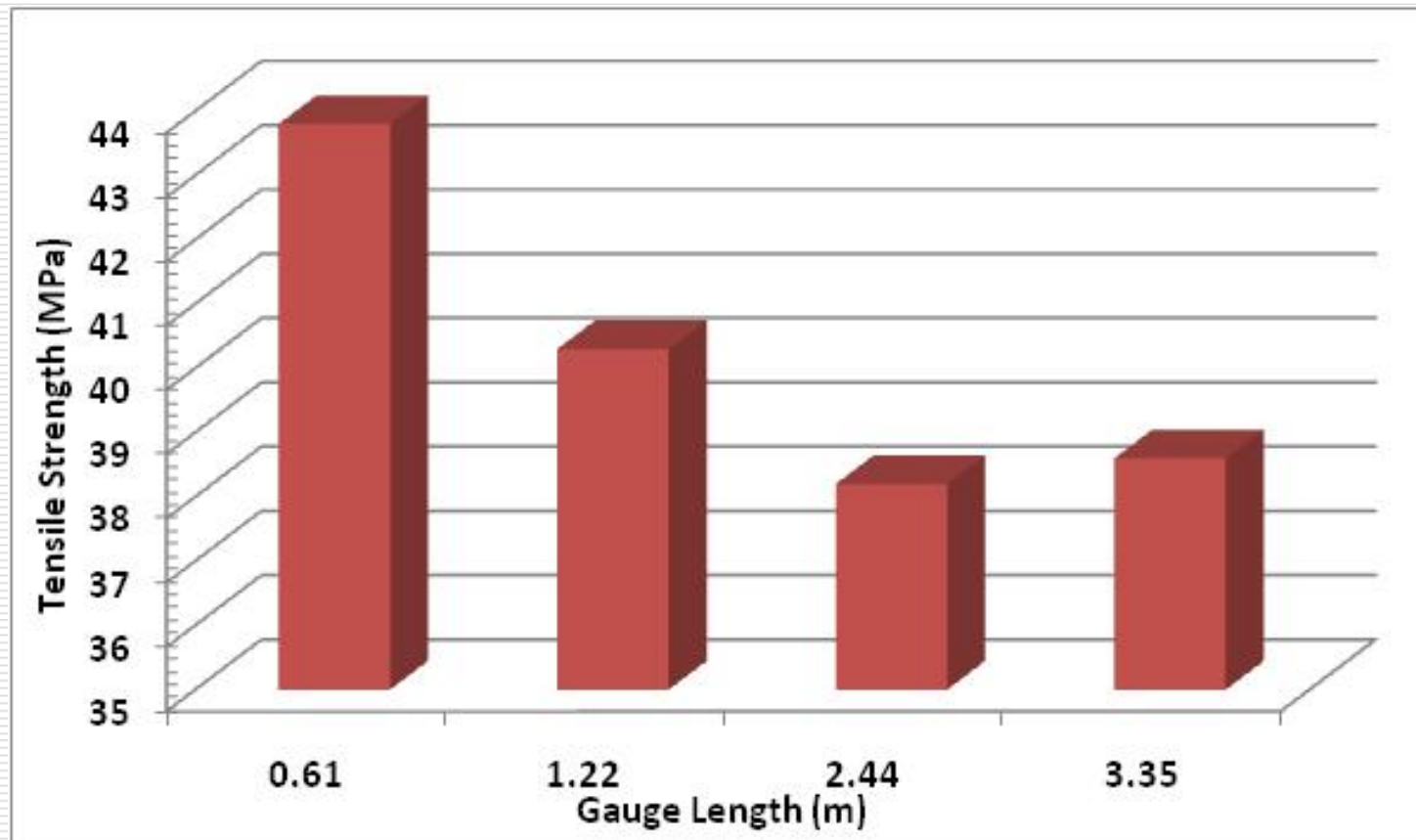
for bending stress

# Bending Stress Design Value



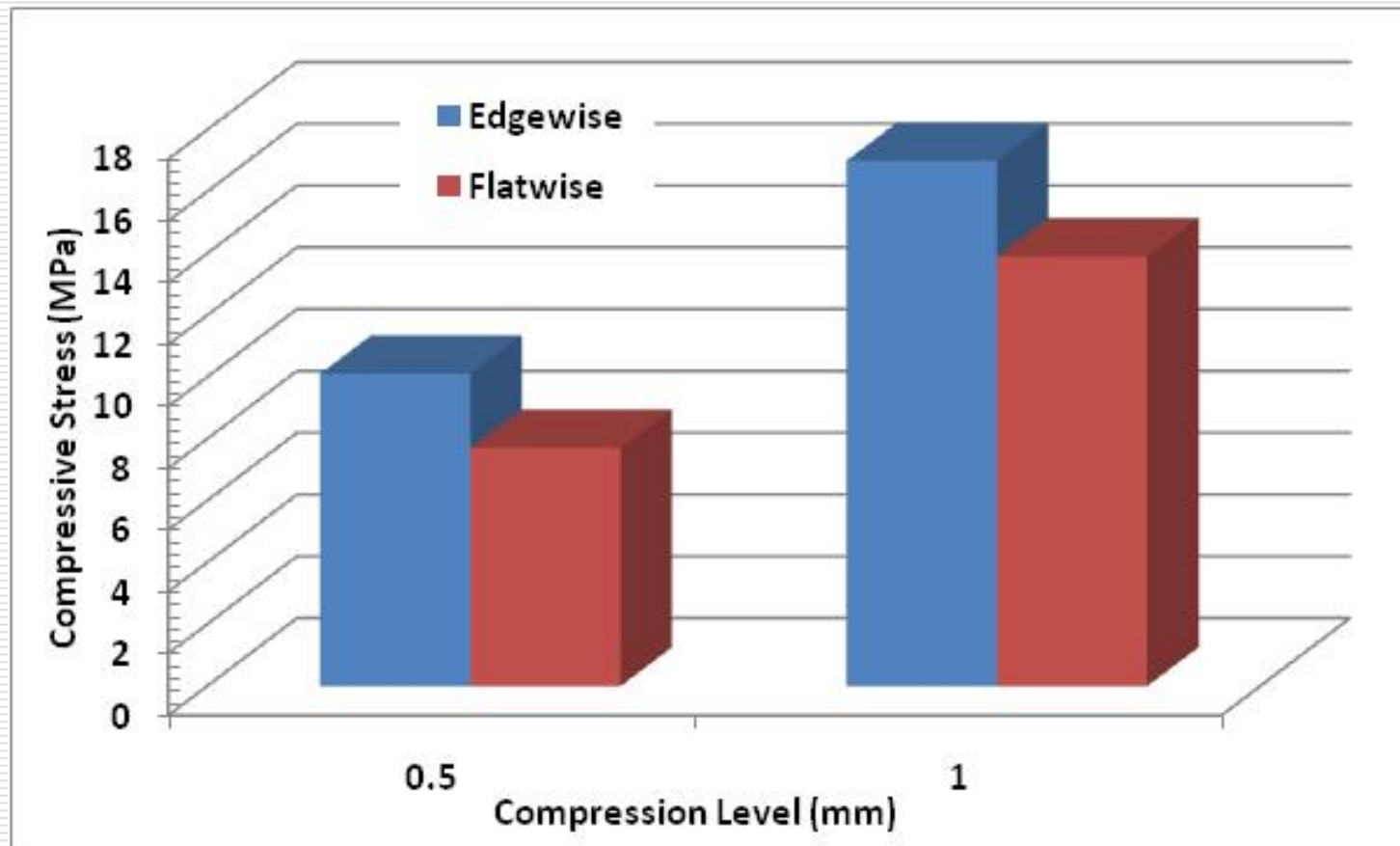
# Tensile Strength Design Values

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# Compressive Strength Design Values

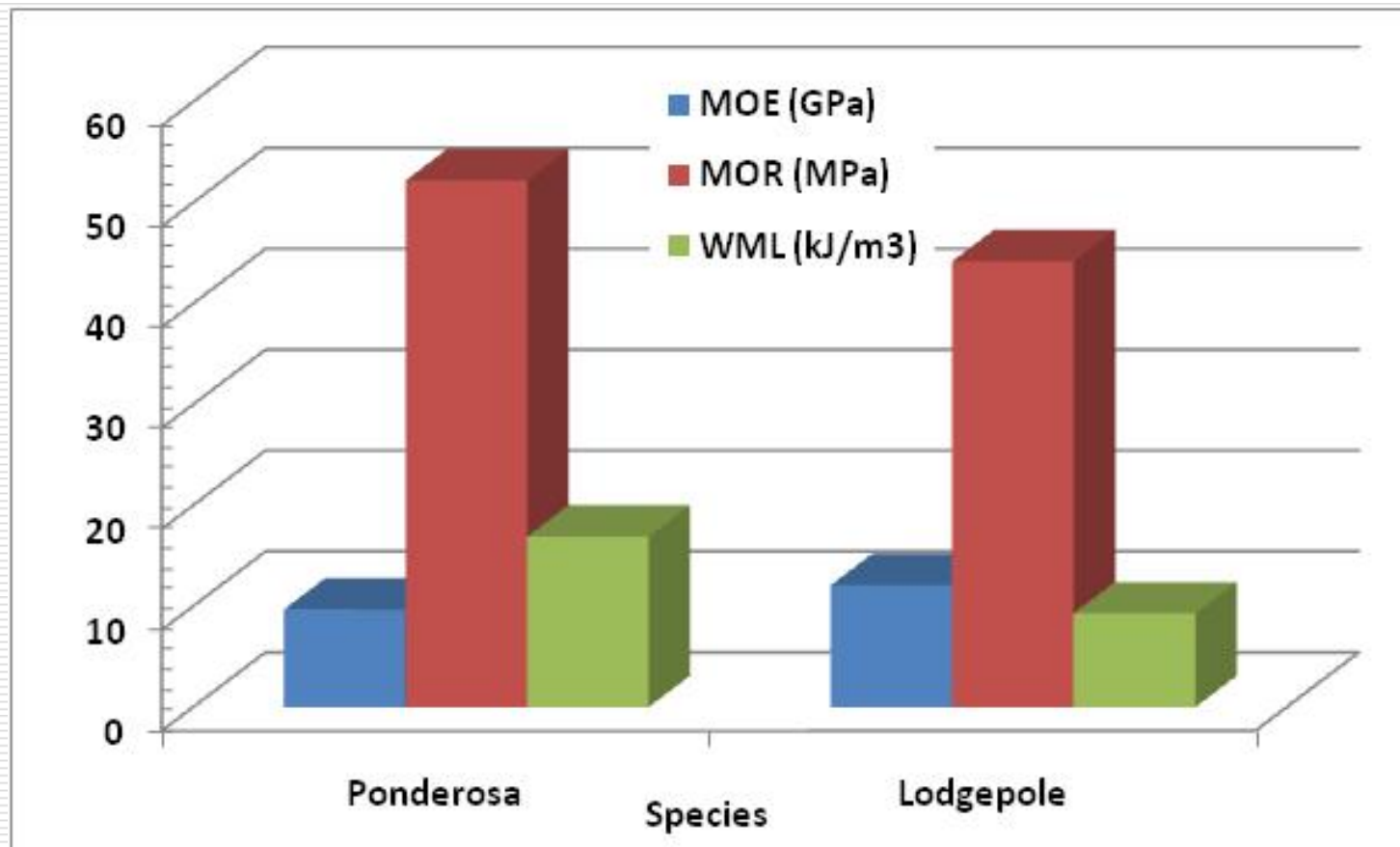


# Southern Pine Results

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- ❑ MOE and MOR design values meet or exceed commercially available products
- ❑ Tensile and compressive strength values are comparable to commercial products

# Mechanical Properties of SPSL from western species



# Results with western pines

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- ❑ Fire-killed material does not scrim well; low MC is culprit
- ❑ NDE testing with a sonic E device may prove useful but requires more work
- ❑ Low MOE values due to blows but other values seem reasonable

# Increase durability for various potential uses

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# Additives to Increase Durability

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- ☐ Water repellents
- ☐ Dimension stabilizers
- ☐ Fungicides &/or insecticides
- ☐ Fire Retardants
- ☐ Corrosion inhibitors

# Limitations on Additives

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- ☐ Negative effect on adhesive
- ☐ Decompose at press temperatures
- ☐ Corrosive to fasteners
- ☐ Hygroscopic
- ☐ Pigmented
- ☐ Cost

# Blended with Adhesive (Resin) Prior to Application to Scrim

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FPS SmallWood Conference Hot Springs, AR 2010





# Added to Wood Furnish (scrim) prior to Drying

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# Added to Wood Furnish (Scrim) after Drying but Prior to Pressing

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# Added to Pressed Material Prior to Cooling

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Penetration of Topically – Applied  
Additives (Spray or Dip) is  
Facilitated by Air within the EWP  
cells Contracting as it Cools

# Added to Cooled TimTek Products

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# Summary

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- ☐ Mechanical properties have been achieved
- ☐ When to add Durability –
  - Enhancing Additives to EWP Depends on
    - ☐ Their Physical and Chemical Properties
    - ☐ Degree of Enhancement Required
- ☐ Commercial facility is being constructed in Mississippi

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# THANKS!!!!

