

OP244  
**Utilization of Harvesting Residue Wood Barks**

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**Aim of Study:** Tree barks as harvesting residues in forest areas have different uses. As harvesting by-products, barks are both cheaper and more environmentally friendly than most other resources.

**Material and Methods:** Barks have various ways of utilizations. For example, the barks of some tree species contain significant amounts of tannins. Tannin is commonly used as a sepia material in leather and substrate in pulp production. Bark is also used as a fuel. Depending on the species obtained and the moisture content of the materials, barks release between 1000 and 5000 calories/kg tree bark is also used as a mulch material in agricultural areas and nurseries. The mulch material produced from the tree barks improves the soil structure, it acts as a buffer against heat and moisture losses from the soil surface and it can increase the infiltration rate.

**Results:** Every year 2 million m<sup>3</sup> of tree bark is produced as by-product during harvesting operations from about 21 million hectare forestlands in Turkey. These harvesting residues that remain in the system as forest floor can be used more effectively with various potential uses.

**Keywords:** Forest harvesting, bark, tannin, mulch, Turkey.