FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Where can I find a forester to evaluate my tree?

If you think your yard tree may have timber value (is a commercially valuable timber species, has a volume of over 500 board feet, and/or is greater than 18" in DBH), consult a professional forester for a more accurate quote of its value. We recommend working with certified foresters that can be found at **osafdirectory.com** or **acf-foresters.org.**

How much can I expect to be paid for my tree?

The price of your tree depends on the species, time of year, and demand. However, the main factors that affect price are the grade of the logs in the tree and the accessibility of the tree. The diameter of the log, as measured inside the bark at the small end of the log, as well as the number, nature, size, and position of any defects in the log, determine the log's grade.

What is a veneer tree and does my tree qualify?

Veneer trees are trees of exceptional quality, with very specific parameters. Veneer trees are very straight and tall, without crooks, bends, or bows of any significance, and cannot contain rot. Veneer trees don't have any limbs, or scars from limbs that once existed and fell off, for at least 8 feet from the ground, preferably 10 feet. In general, the trunk must be solid and blemish free.

A tree that has been grown in an open area such as your yard will have more sapwood than dark heartwood. Sapwood is softer and not ideal for veneer; therefore, it is of little interest to veneer buyers. Open-grown trees are also likely to grow faster, resulting in wider growth rings and a looser grain that is undesireable for veneer.

The tree growing in your yard may also contain foreign objects including nails, clothesline, hooks or other metal objects in the trunk. Felling hazards such as fences, clotheslines, power lines, and buildings, as well as the yard itself and any adjacent landscaping, often make the cost of removing the yard tree exceed your return.

Why are trees in the woods more valuable than my yard tree?

Generally, a forest grown tree will have greater value than your yard tree. Trees that grow in mature, full-canopied woods are forced to grow tall, producing long sections of lower trunk free from limbs and other defects. These trees accumulate very little in terms of diameter growth earlier in their lifespan because they are focused on ensuring their canopies have maximum access to the sun. This results in a straight, tight grain that is more valuable for lumber.

Due to the high cost of moving large equipment, it is more cost effective for loggers to move their equipment to a woodland rather than to a yard. Greater volumes can be harvested from a woodlot, and expenses can be reduced due to the absence of power lines and buildings, and the reduced cost of cleanup if limbs and tree tops can be left in the woods.

What about walnut?

While some people have sold high value walnut veneer trees, these trees are exceptions. Often, these trees are found grown in woodlands where competition from surrounding trees has encouraged proper growth and form to produce high-quality logs. Even in ideal growing conditions, veneer quality trees are uncommon, and are extremely rare in landscape and yard settings.

How can I find a buyer for my yard tree?

While yard trees usually have little value to commercial mills, they can still have good value to hobby woodworkers. To market the wood to hobbyists, advertise through social media or local newspapers. Your local forester or arborist may also know of buyers who would be interested in your yard tree.

If you would like to use lumber from your tree, there are sawmills that will do custom sawing for a charge or a percentage of the lumber yield. Additionally, private individuals with portable sawmills can saw your logs at your property or a remote location. The Ohio State University Extension maintains a list of vendors who provide portable sawmill services available at **woodlandstewards.osu.edu.**



ODNR Division of Forestry Mission Statement

To promote and apply management for the sustainable use and protection of Ohio's private and public forest lands.

For more information, contact:

Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry

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(614) 265-6694 • Toll Free: 1-877-247-8733 forestry.ohiodnr.gov

Call Before You Cut: 1-877-424-8288 or www.callb4ucut.com

Service Forester Directory: forestry.ohiodnr.gov/serviceforesters

Adapted from the State of Minnesota Division of Natural Resources, "Is My Yard Tree Worth Money?" 1999

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IS YOUR YARD TREE WORTH MONEY?





While many trees are valued for their aesthetics and beauty, not all trees are considered valuable as timber. Due to the cost of removal, only yard trees of certain species with exceptional quality and that have significant volume have enough potential value to be considered for harvesting.

These are the four most important steps to determining the value of your yard trees and their potential marketability:

Step 1. Estimate the cost and logistics of removal.

Although there is no easy way to determine the cost of removing your yard tree, there are a few things that will affect this expense. With buildings, overhead lines or other permanent structures located within a distance equal to the height of the tree, the cost of removal will increase. If structures are on more than two sides, or are on the downhill side of the tree, the removal cost usually exceeds the wood value of the tree.

Depending on the location, the tree may need to be cut into several portions to take down safely, which further decreases the merchantability of the tree. If you are planning on selling, avoid cutting up the tree trunk. Some of the value of your tree can be lost if logs are not cut at the right place and to an acceptable length. Therefore, it is best to let the buyer cut the logs.

Veneer buyers and loggers are not typically arborists. They do not have the right equipment and appropriate liability insurance for the urban environment, and therefore will usually NOT remove trees near buildings. Conventional logging equipment is large and is often not suited for urban settings. A certified arborist may be your best and safest option.

Step 2. Assess the presence of foreign objects.

Log buyers are reluctant to buy yard trees because they often contain foreign objects such as nails, clothesline, hooks, fence wire, or cement that have become embedded in the wood. A single nail can ruin a very expensive saw blade or veneer knife, so buyers are apprehensive about purchasing urban trees. Examine the trunk or log carefully for any of these or other foreign objects. They often can be found protruding from the log or as lines or distortions in the bark. Also, a purple or black spot on the end of the log indicates metal in the tree. Be aware that some hardware leaves no visible mark on the bark or in the wood. The presence of any foreign object(s) offsets the value of your tree for wood products.

Step 3. Determine the defects.

The value of the log decreases as the number, nature, and size of any defects increase. Defects include any knots, seams, bumps, branches, scars, cracks, or bark distortions on the logs. If these are present on the trunk or log, they disqualify the log for veneer and may result in reduced value.

FINDING AN ARBORIST

If your tree needs to be removed because it is unhealthy, damaged, dead, or causing property damage, your first step should be contacting an arborist for assessment and safe removal if needed. Certified arborists in your area can be found at treesaregood.org/findanarborist.

Step 4. Determine the potential volume

A "log" is a section of the trunk of a tree that should be no less than 8' long (factoring in trim allowance, 8'6" is preferred) and has no major branches.

Trees with trunks that are less than 8' to the lowest limb or curve, or that have a DBH (Diameter at Breast Height) under 18", have little value as a timber tree.

Downed Trees:

If the tree has already been cut down, use the log rule table to determine the potential volume.

Measure the diameter inside the bark at the small end of the log in inches, and also the length of the log in feet. If a log length falls in between categories, the next lower length should be used (e.g., a 9'11" log would be considered as an 9' log).



Log Board Foot Volume - Doyle Rule											
		Log Length									
		8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
Diameter Inside Bark (inches)	14	50	56	63	69	75	81	88	94	100	
	15	61	68	76	83	91	98	106	113	121	
	16	72	81	90	99	108	117	126	135	144	
	17	85	95	106	116	127	137	148	158	169	
	18	98	110	123	135	147	159	172	184	196	
	19	113	127	141	155	169	183	197	211	225	
	20	128	144	160	176	192	208	224	240	256	
	21	145	163	181	199	217	235	253	271	289	
	22	162	182	203	223	243	263	284	304	324	
	23	181	203	226	248	271	293	316	338	361	
	24	200	225	250	275	300	325	350	375	400	
	25	221	248	276	303	331	358	386	413	441	
	26	242	272	303	333	363	393	424	454	484	
	27	265	298	331	364	397	430	463	496	529	
	28	288	324	360	396	432	468	504	540	576	
	29	313	352	391	430	469	508	547	586	625	
	30	338	380	423	465	507	549	592	634	676	

Standing Trees:

Estimate the height of the trunk from the stump height (generally 6" above the base) up to the first limb, curve in the trunk, or to where the diameter is less than 8" inside the bark to get the approximate length in logs. Use ocular estimates to make this determination.

Find the DBH of the tree by measuring the circumference in inches with a tape measure, and then using the formula below:



Convert this value to the 2-inch DBH class. For example, an 18" DBH tree includes anything measuring from 17.0" to 18.9". Another example: Your tree measures 56" in circumference. Your calculated DBH is 56/3.1416 = 17.8". Your 2-inch DBH would be 18".

Utilize the Standing Tree Board Foot Volume – Doyle Rule Table to determine the volume in board feet.

Standing Tree Board Foot Volume - Doyle Rule												
		Number of 8' Logs										
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8			
2-inch DBH	18	60	100	130	160	200	220	40	160			
	20	80	130	180	220	260	300	320	360			
	22	100	170	230	280	340	380	420	460			
	24	130	220	290	360	430	490	540	600			
	26	160	260	360	440	520	590	660	740			
	28	190	320	430	520	620	710	800	880			
	30	230	380	510	630	740	840	940	1040			
	32	270	440	590	730	860	990	1120	1220			
	34	300	510	680	850	1000	1140	1300	1440			
	36	350	580	780	970	1140	1310	1480	1640			
	38	390	660	880	1100	1290	1480	1680	1860			
	40	430	740	990	1230	1450	1660	1880	2080			
	42	470	830	1100	1370	1620	1860	2100	2320			