

## How much can you expect from your 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 tree's diameter, as well as the number, nature, and size of any defects in the tree, determines the grade of the logs.

## What about walnut?

Walnut may be one of the most overrated trees in the wood industry. While some people have sold high value walnut veneer trees, these trees are exceptions.

## Veneer trees in the yard

A tree that has been grown in an open area such as your yard will have more sapwood than dark heartwood. The sapwood is not as useable for veneer and therefore will not be of as much interest to veneer wood buyers. The tree growing in your yard may contain foreign objects including nails, clothesline, hooks or other metal objects in the trunk. Generally, a forest grown tree will have greater value than your yard tree. 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 more expensive than a good quality tree is worth.

## Valuable trees in the woods

There is a higher chance for trees to be valuable if they are grown in the woods. They have a slower growth rate and generally do not have foreign objects such as metal nails in the trunk.

Also, there are often several trees which makes it more worthwhile for the timber buyer to come and look at them. There are no power lines or buildings that can be damaged when the trees are harvested, and the limbs and unused tops can be left in the woods. The cost of moving the equipment needed to harvest the trees is usually too high to warrant the purchase of a single yard tree.

## Marketing and utilizing your wood

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, place an advertisement in your local newspaper.

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. Also, there are people with portable sawmills who can saw your logs either at your property or at a remote location.

## For more information contact:

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Call Before You Cut:  
1-877-424-8288 or [www.callb4ucut.com](http://www.callb4ucut.com)

Service Forester Directory:  
[www.ohiodnr.com/forestry/landowner/directory.htm](http://www.ohiodnr.com/forestry/landowner/directory.htm)

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



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(rev 01/07)



*Is My Yard Tree Worth Money?*

Ohio Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Forestry  
2007

This handout is designed to help landowners determine if there is value in the wood of their yard tree. Not all hardwood logs, including walnut, are always valuable. Due to the cost of removal, only yard trees of exceptional quality and that have significant volume have enough potential value to be considered for harvesting.

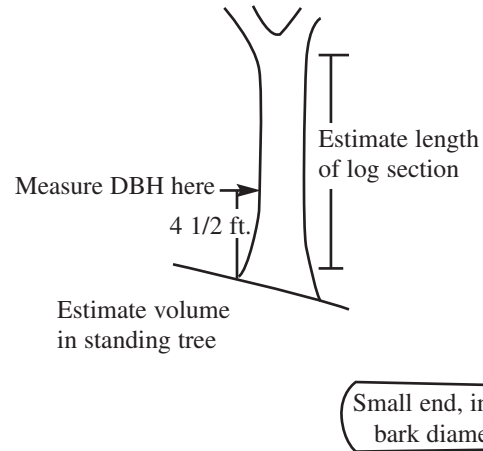
These are the five most important steps to determining the value of your yard trees and their potential marketability:

### Step 1. Determining the volume

**Logs:** A log is a section of the trunk of a tree that should be no less than 8' 6" long, and have no major branches. Avoid cutting up the tree trunk. Some of the value of your tree can be lost if logs are not cut appropriately at the right place and to an acceptable length. Therefore, it is best to let the buyer cut the logs. If the tree has already been cut down, use the log rule table to determine the potential volume. Measure the diameter inside the bark of the small end of the log, and also the length of the log. 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 a 8 ft. log).

**Standing Trees:** Estimate the height of the trunk from the stump height (generally 12" above the base) up to the first limb, curve in the trunk, or to where the diameter is less than 8 inches inside the bark to get the approximate log length. Find the DBH (Diameter at Breast Height) of the tree by measuring the circumference with a tape measure, and then using the formula below. To determine small end diameter inside the bark farther up the tree, use ocular estimates. Trees with trunks that are less than 8 feet to the lowest limb, curve or an 8" diameter at the small end of the log inside the bark, or that have a DBH under 18" have little value as a timber tree. The log rule table can then also be applied to these measurements. The log scale (vs. the tree scale) is provided to calculate volume of the high quality portion of the tree. The upper logs, especially those of low quality, tops, and branch wood are unlikely to be removed or paid for by the purchaser.

$$\text{DBH (inches)} = \frac{\text{Circumference (inches)}}{3.1416}$$



Estimate volume in standing tree

### Doyle Log Rule

Diameter of small end inside bark (inches)	Length of log in feet					
	6	8	10	12	14	16
	Volume in board feet					
6	2	2	3	3	4	4
7	3	5	6	7	8	9
8	6	8	10	12	14	16
9	9	13	16	19	22	25
10	14	18	23	27	32	36
11	18	25	31	37	43	49
12	24	32	40	48	56	64
13	30	41	51	61	71	81
14	38	50	63	75	88	100
15	45	61	76	91	106	121
16	54	72	90	108	126	144
17	63	85	106	127	148	169
18	74	98	123	147	172	196
19	84	113	141	169	197	225
20	96	128	160	192	224	256
21	108	145	181	217	253	289
22	122	162	203	243	284	324
23	135	181	226	271	316	361
24	150	200	250	300	350	400
25	165	221	276	331	386	441
26	182	242	303	363	424	484
27	198	265	331	397	463	529
28	216	288	360	432	504	576
29	234	313	391	469	547	625
30	254	338	423	507	592	676

### Step 2. Determining the defects

The value of the log decreases as the number, nature and size of any defects increases. 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 having little wood value in the tree.

### Step 3. Assessing 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 of purchasing urban trees. Examine the trunk or log carefully for any of these or other foreign objects. They often can be found as parts of the object 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. The presence of any foreign object(s) offsets the value of your tree for wood products.

### Step 4. Estimating the cost of tree removal

Although there is no easy way to determine the cost of removing your yard tree, there are a few things to look for. With buildings, overhead lines or other permanent structures located within a distance equal to the height of the tree, the cost to remove it will increase. If these structures are on more than two sides or are on the downhill side of the tree, the takedown cost may exceed the wood value of the tree. Veneer buyers and loggers are not 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. A certified arborist may be your best option.

### Step 5. Consulting a professional forester

If a tree passes the first four steps, and has a volume of over 500 board feet and/or is greater than 18" in DBH, consult a professional forester to receive an accurate value for your tree.