

How much can you expect from your tree?

The price of logs fluctuates with time of year and demand. The main factors affecting price is grade of the logs in the tree which is a function of diameter and the number, the nature and size of defects.

High quality logs may yield fifty cents and more per board foot.

What about Walnut?

Walnut is probably one of the most overrated trees in the wood industry. High value walnut veneer trees have large diameters and several top grade 8 foot logs, but these trees are a rare exception.

Walnut trees in the yard

A walnut that has been grown in the open, such as a yard will have more white sapwood than dark heartwood. The sapwood is not useable for veneer and therefore will not be of interest to veneer wood buyers. The tree growing in a yard may contain foreign metal objects including nails, clothesline hooks. Quite often a comparable size forest grown red or white oak may be worth more than a walnut yard tree. Fences, clotheslines, power lines and buildings often make the cost of removing a yard tree more expensive than the value of the tree.

Walnut trees in the woods

Usually forest grown walnut are more valuable than yard trees, because they grow more slowly and normally do not have embedded foreign objects in the trunk. Often, there are more trees in a wooded area making them potentially more valuable for a timber buyer. Power lines and buildings normally do not interfere with harvesting and the limbs and unused tops can be left in the woods reducing costs for the logger.

Marketing and Utilizing your wood

Yard trees often have little value to commercial mills. However, they have value to hobby woodworkers. To market the wood to the hobbyists, place an advertisement in the local paper or hobby or woodworking magazine. Local schools may have use for the wood in industrial technology

courses. If you would like to use your tree's lumber yourself, there are sawmills that will do custom sawing for a fee or a percentage of the lumber yield.

In the Twin Cities metro area ask for the "Metro Area Small mill and kiln" list to find a market for the tree(s) or follow this link <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/um/index.html>

For more information in the Twin Cities metro or surrounding counties contact:

Lance Sorensen, Wood Utilization & Marketing Specialist, Region 3, St. Paul/Rochester at 507-206-2837 or via e-mail at lance.sorensen@state.mn.us

Art Widerstrom (Anoka, Chisago, Washington, Isanti, Ramsey, & Hennepin Counties) at 651-982-9720 ext. 224

Lake City Area Forestry 651-345-3216 X 221, Dakota and Goodhue, Scott, Carver and Rice counties

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Is My Yard Tree Worth Money?



**Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Forestry Division**



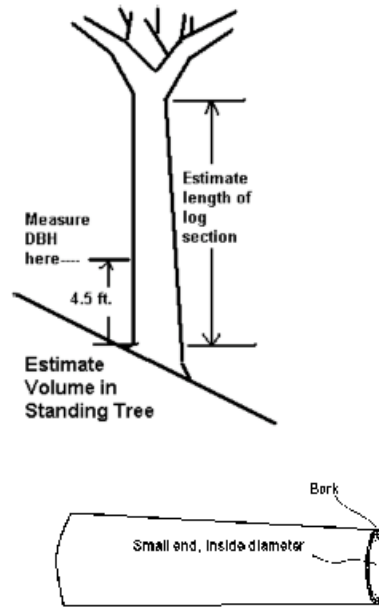
This handout was developed to help landowners determine the value of their yard tree. Not all hardwoods including walnut are valuable. Only yard trees of exceptional quality and significant volume have value. Following are the four most important steps to determine the value and marketability of yard trees.

Step 1. Determining the volume

* Logs: A log should be no less than 8 feet 4 inches long. Let the buyer determine the length of log to cut. The value of the tree can be lost if logs are not cut appropriately and to the correct length. If the tree has been cut down and cut up, use the log rule table to determine potential volume. Measure the small end diameter, inside the bark, and the length of the log. Use these measurements to determine board feet. Logs less than the "standard length of log" should use the next lower length (e.g., a 9 foot 11 inch. log will be considered as an 8 foot log).

- Standing Trees: Estimate the height of the trunk from the base to the first limb and the point (ocular estimate) where the diameter is less than 8 inches. Measure the DBH (Diameter Breast Height) at 4 ½ feet above the ground (see formula below). To determine log length and small end diameter inside the bark farther up the tree, use ocular estimates. Trees with trunks less than 8 feet high or D.B.H. under 18 inches have little value.

$$\text{D.B.H. (inches)} = \frac{\text{Circumference (inches)}}{3}$$



Log Rule (Board Feet - Scribner Decimal C)

Diameter Inside Bark Small end (inches)	Length of Log (feet)					
	6	8	10	12	14	16
6	5	5	10	10	10	20
8	10	10	20	20	20	30
10	20	30	30	30	40	60
12	30	40	50	60	70	80
14	40	60	70	90	100	110
16	60	80	100	120	140	160
18	80	110	130	160	190	210
20	110	140	170	210	240	280
22	130	170	210	250	290	330
24	150	210	250	300	350	400

Step 2. Determining the defects

The value of the log decreases as the number, nature and size of defects increases. Look on the log for any knots, seams, blazes, bumps, branches, scars or bark distortions. The presence of any of these defects on the trunk or log disqualifies the log for veneer.

Step 3. Assessing the presence of foreign objects

Log buyers are very reluctant to buy logs from urban areas because they often contain foreign objects. A single nail can ruin a very expensive saw blade or veneer knife. Examine the trunk or the log very carefully for foreign objects. These objects often show up with parts of the object protruding from the log or as distortions in the bark. The presence of any foreign objects neutralizes the value of your tree for wood products. A purplish or black spot on the end of the log indicates metal in the tree.

Step 4. Estimating the cost of tree removal

Although there is no easy way to determine the cost of tree removal, there are a few things to look for. If there are any buildings, overhead lines or other permanent structures within the distance of the height of the tree, the takedown cost will increase. If these structures are on more than two sides or on the downhill side of the tree, it is likely that the takedown cost will exceed the wood value of the tree. Walnut buyers and loggers are not urban tree removers. They do not have the right equipment and appropriate liability insurance for urban environment, and therefore **will NOT** remove trees near buildings. A Tree Care Service might be your only option.

Step 5. Consulting a professional forester

If a tree passes steps one through four, and has an outstanding volume (over 500 board feet) or size (over 20 inch D.B.H.), consult a professional forester to make an accurate valuation for the tree.