

Whatever there is to be removed, whether it's oak, sycamore, ash, maple, pine or spruce, usually goes into the firewood pile. In addition, many municipalities split the larger pieces, thus further adding to the labor and costs of removing street trees.



Many municipalities transport their tree removal material to maintenance yards for further processing.

The premise for writing this guide is that there must be a better way; a better way for street tree management than *maximum cost - minimum return*. The removal work itself must be done, but there is a potential opportunity for

changing this cost-burden scenario into one that is more cost efficient by exploring the ideas in this guide. Instead of sawing a good log into firewood, leave it "as is" — a



Firewood splitting operations are usually time consuming and labor intensive.

readily marketable commodity. The dollar return potential of selling the log for lumber products exceeds the return potential of selling the log for firewood by at least two to four times.

II. THE MARKET

The concept of utilizing street trees in sawmills is not new. Some sawmills have been sawing products from street trees for many years because they have found a unique niche for using street tree sawlogs. These mills process both hardwoods (trees which lose their leaves every year, i.e., oaks, maples) and softwoods (trees with needle-like leaves that do not fall off in the dormant season, i.e., white pine, Norway spruce).

The dollar return potential of selling a good street tree log for lumber products exceeds the dollar return potential of selling the same log for firewood by two to four times.

Wood pallets, such as the ones supporting these cement blocks, are a common product manufactured from both hardwood and softwood logs.

Street tree logs can be used in the manufacturing of many industrial and consumer products.

High-quality products such as this mantel are constructed of lumber produced from hardwood logs.



From street tree logs, sawmills can manufacture products such as pallets and pallet stock, landscape ties, truck bed stock, fencing, heavy timbers, construction lumber, posts, bridges, and park benches. Furniture grade lumber can also be produced from these logs which can then be used to make products such as mantels and decorative

moldings. Sawmills are the market and opportunity to which street tree logs can be merchandised.



Some of the wood generated from municipal trees holds special potential for unique and figurative characteristics. One example is spalted wood, which results when logs are invaded by certain fungi.

The fungi produce a highly unique coloration and pattern in the wood that is very appealing and special.



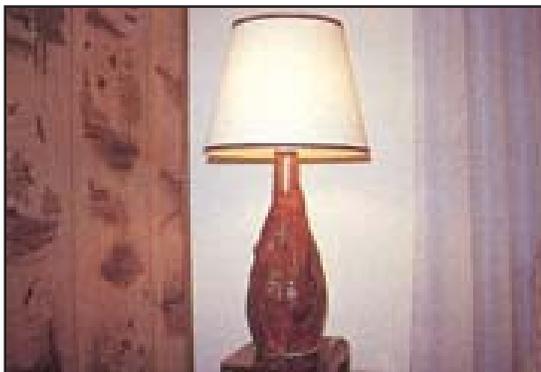
Unique and figurative designs occur in spalted wood, making it valuable. You may have already had requests from crafters for this type of material.

Burlwood and crotchwood also have highly unique and figurative characteristics. These types of wood are valuable and are sometimes found in municipal trees that have been traditionally turned into firewood.

The retail price for some of these figurative woods can be as much as four times the retail price for standard lumber used to produce the same product. Crafters seek these types of wood because of the many special effects they give their finished products.

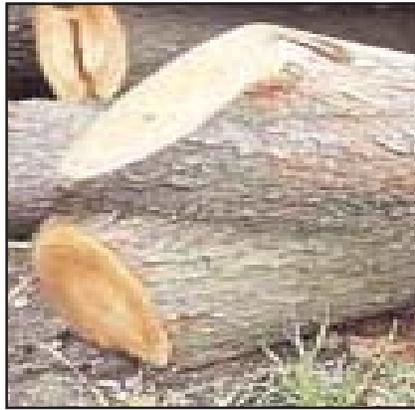


Burls are defects in trees caused by a variety of factors in nature such as a fungi attack. Lumber sawn from burls provides unique and figurative characteristics.



Many types of high-value products can be produced from burlwood. This lamp uses the whole burl in the finished product.

Forks in trees often develop attractive grain patterns which are desirable characteristics for various products. These photos are examples of crotchwood.



Generally, the mills using street trees are not typical high-production operations. They are smaller in size and may have different markets and product lines compared to standard production-oriented sawmills.

The keys to marketing street tree logs are:

1. Locating local sawmills,
2. Working with mills to learn sawlog requirements,
3. Making sure the merchantable sawlogs are free of metal and other foreign material,
4. Storing sawlogs until a salable quantity is accumulated, and
5. Being flexible and persistent enough to try this concept.

III. PRODUCTS & SPECIFICATIONS

Street trees that are at least 12 inches in diameter at breast height (4.5 feet from the ground) and have a log of at least six feet in length have sawlog potential. Normally, the most valuable part of the tree is the first eight to sixteen feet closest to the ground.

This butt log is being processed into firewood. If sold as a sawlog, the net return would include time and labor savings, as well as income which could be returned to the street tree management budget.



This is where the greatest volume of wood is located. It is also where the most valuable wood is found. The first log cut closest to the ground is called the butt log.