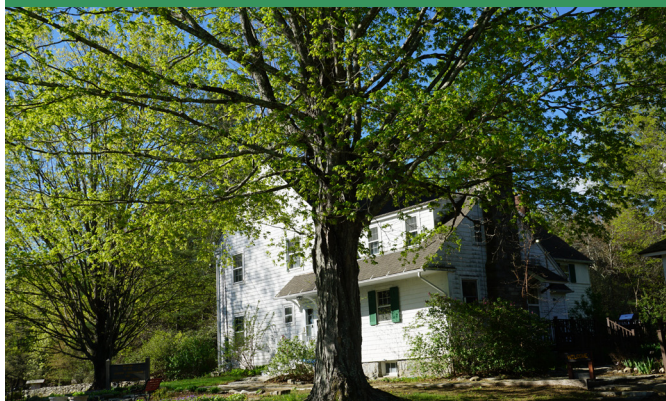


## Keep in mind...

- It is the trees trunk that will be used for lumber. Once cut, the trunk is referred to as a log. Logs must have a minimum length of 8' 6" without a major branch or fork. Trunks less than this length have little value for lumber.
- Different species of trees have widely different values as lumber. Some species are not used for lumber at all because of certain negative qualities they possess. It's best to know if the species of tree is commercially suited before contacting a portable sawmill.
- The amount and location of decay can influence its desirability
- Objects protruding from the log or distortions in the bark may be signs of foreign objects. A purplish or black spot on the end of the log indicates that megal is present in the tree.



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## Can You Sell the Trees in Your Yard for Timber?



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Comissioner Rob Klee

# Challenges of Yard Tree Felling and Trunk Removal

Felling yard trees and transporting the trunks for lumber poses tremendous challenges.

Examples of these challenges are:

- Close proximity of trees to structures or improvements like homes, businesses, pools, sheds, barns, and fencing.
- Navigating around septic tanks, above and underground utilities such as natural gas lines, low lying overhead powerlines, cable TV and phone lines.
- Steep hills or wet soil conditions.
- Paved driveways unable to support the weight of heavy equipment required to transport the logs.

If your yard tree is located in or near these conditions it should be felled by a licensed arborist; loggers don't typically have the kind of skill, equipment or liability insurance to properly handle servicing a tree in an urban setting.

# Would a Sawmill Buy Your Yard Trees?

- Yard trees have a higher chance of containing embedded objects in the wood. For this reason commercial sawmills are very apprehensive about accepting yard trees and many won't accept them at all.
- Hitting hidden foreign objects such as nails, fences, screws, and clothes line hooks can cause downtime potentially costing thousands and even cause harm to the operator. Embedded glass and ceramics create similar risks.
- The unique challenges tree experts face when working with yard trees combined with the cost of felling the tree and removing the wood is generally far greater than the value of any forest products contained within.



# An Alternative to Commercial Sawmills

Over the past decade, portable sawmills have begun to be recognized as a viable alternative for sawing yard trees into lumber. There are many advantages and disadvantages of type of sawmill.

One of the primary advantages of portable sawmills is their fairly inexpensive blades, relatively low injury risk when the blades break and ease in replacing them.

Some portable sawmill owners advertise that, for a fee, they will bring their sawmill to your site to saw logs into lumber. Fees may be based on an hourly or board foot charge.

The lumber can then be used for a project of your own or sold if you have an available market. A list of local portable sawmill operators can be found on the website of some portable sawmill manufacturers.

