

Ash Wood Utilization

The following excerpt from the document titled “*Ash Tree Values & Uses*,” developed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources contains valuable information regarding the value and use of urban ash trees. Following the excerpt is a list of resources regarding wood utilization in Minnesota, including information about companies in Minnesota that may use urban wood, examples of how other communities have used urban wood, and ideas for developing a community wood utilization plan. All will be beneficial to a community developing an ash wood utilization plan in preparation for the arrival of emerald ash borer.

Ash Tree Values & Uses

From: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

*“What is the **landscape** value of a 12” dbh (diameter at breast height) ash street tree in good condition? Based on landscape tree valuation formulas, such a tree is worth approximately \$1470. Valuation is a common feature of tree inventory software and can be used to determine landscape value of a municipality’s entire public tree resource or to assess tree damages from construction injury, vandalism, etc. Landscape value is often much higher than the utilization (lumber) value of individual trees in urban settings. These values were derived using guides developed by the Council of Tree & Landscape Appraisers.*

*What is the **lumber** value of a 12” dbh ash tree? A 12-inch tree will yield one 8-foot length log or possibly a 16-foot length log. The (Wisconsin) DNR ash stumpage rates vary by zones within the state (13 zones in all) and depend heavily on log quality as well as other factors. Currently (11-1-07) the average value per thousand board feet taken across those 13 zones is approximately \$131, with a low of \$90 and a high of \$171. A 12”, 8 – foot log would yield approximately 30 board feet at a value of \$3.93, to review what values may be applicable in your portion of the state go to the Stumpage Value rate sheet for logs, page 411 of website listed below. <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/rsb/code/nr/nr046.pdf> Take note that these rates are determined on an annual basis and will vary per micro area, the volume available, along with the current market, but this is at least a starting point.*

*What is the **value of the benefits** provided by one healthy 20-year-old urban tree in the upper Midwest? According to USDA Forest Service calculations, such a tree provides \$96 per year in energy savings, storm water management and air pollution abatement. The annual cost for that same tree averages \$36, which includes planting, pruning, irrigation, sidewalk repair, and other factors. The annual net value of the benefits provided by this 20-year-old tree is \$60. USDA Forest Service research data is from: *Midwest Community Tree Guide: Benefits, Costs, and Strategic Planting*. NS-TP-05-05.*

What are some of the uses of our urban ash? Mulch and firewood are most common, but ash can also be milled, on site, into lumber using a portable sawmill, or transported to a mill or a marshalling yard within a quarantined area. Other products include railroad ties, paneling, flooring, moldings, pallets and baseball bats. Ash can also be used for many other products that

we see everyday and take for granted - picnic tables in a park, bleacher seating, tree and survey stakes, sideboards for trucks and handles for tools like hammers and rakes.” (WI DNR)

Urban Wood Utilization Web Resources

[Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Marketing and Utilization Webpage](#)

List of directories on the Minnesota DNR Marketing and Utilization Webpage

- [Minnesota Primary Forest Products Producer Directory](#) Lists Minnesota sawmills, pulp and paper mills, oriented strand board mills, veneer mills, and dry-kiln facilities.
- [Minnesota Secondary Forest Products Producer Directory](#) Lists wood-product manufacturing companies, including those that make furniture, cabinets, doors, fixtures, and log homes.
- [Markets for Urban Wood With an Emphasis on Ash \(PDF: 445Kb\)](#) Tips for finding markets for urban trees to reduce costs of removals.
- [Twin Cities Sawmill & Dry Kiln Listing- 2009 \(PDF: 41Kb\)](#) Lists sawmills and dry kilns that serve the Twin Cities metro area, some of whom utilize small volumes of urban wood.
- [Biomass Program](#) Lists information related to the use and availability of Minnesota's woody biomass resources, including a list of active wood energy facilities.

Minnesota exchange sites

- [Minnesota Materials Exchange](#) Provides a re-use network to organizations with re-usable goods to those that can use them, along with links to various other re-use programs.
- [Minneapolis Biomass Exchange](#) Opportunity to list wood resources for sale or disposal to potential markets.

Other states affected by emerald ash borer and the strategies developed for marketing and utilization

- [Illinois plan for emerald ash borer aftermath](#)
- [Southeast Michigan urban wood effort](#)
- The [US Forest Service web site for Urban and Community Forestry](#) with contact information and a great deal of useful information

*Notes from the MN DNR Utilization and Marketing Program on concerns about mass storage of wood chips if municipalities are overwhelmed with wood residue:

- The strategies developed for dealing with wood residue from emerald ash borer mitigation has raised some concerns and brought back memories of Dutch elm disease concentration and storage yards. While piles of logs are not as great a concern, piles of chipped residue can and do spontaneously combust and cause a “real” fire hazard for agencies and local government units. Some employees remember these as problem events in the 1980’s when elm was chipped and stored in marshalling yards for long periods of time.
- There are methods of long-term storage of chips that are employed by pulp mills in Minnesota. Boise in International Falls packs chip in a dense pile. SAPPI in Cloquet employs a system of airflow chutes that aerate the pile to dispel the heat in the pile. Study of these methods would be suggested prior to permitting these marshalling yards.