

MAWT Demo – September 11, 2017

Harvesting Wood

(For almost every generality, there is at least one exception)

Sources:

- Own yard
- Neighbor / Neighborhood
- Roadside
- City Dump / wood yard
- Tree surgeon arborist

Species

- Nut trees
 - o Walnut (black, English, hybrid)
 - o Oaks (White is good, red is not so good)
 - o Hickory / pecan
- Fruit woods
 - o Cherry
 - o Apple
 - o Pear
- Elms
 - o Red
 - o Siberian / Chinese
 - o American
- Ornamentals and odd stuff
 - o Lilac
 - o Buckthorn
 - o Yew
 - o Sumac
- Generally not evergreen/coniferous – there are exceptions

Best time of year, if given a choice, is fall, after the leaves have fallen, up to middle of January

- Trees are at their lowest natural moisture content
- For natural edge, bark stands best chance of staying on the tree

Get the wood as soon as possible after it is cut down.

Process the wood as soon as possible after you get it.

Processing

Chainsaw

- BE SAFE!!
- Three things to consider:
 - o Bar length relates to size of the largest piece you can process. Blind cuts (cutting a piece that is longer than your bar) is dangerous.
 - o HP relates to bar length –making a cut with the full length of your bar requires HP.
 - o Chip clearance is importance

Cutting rack

- Build your own
 - o Three 6-foot boards and 1-1/2 hours
- Gets the wood up off the ground
 - o Saves your back
 - o Safer
 - o Saves the chainsaw (reduces resharpening)
 - o Chip clearances

Things to watch for

- Cracks
- Foreign material (nails, stones, etc)

Lay out the cut lines

- Eliminate the pith
 - o There are exceptions
- Determine the grain pattern and make decisions based on the desired end result.
- Refer to charts
- Mark the lines – cut to the marks
- Don't forget to cut some spindle turning squares

After the log is cut

- If possible, round the bowl blank with the chainsaw or on a bandsaw
- Rough turning vs drying the round bowl blank
- Seal the blank
- Store the blank