

How to use a diameter tape

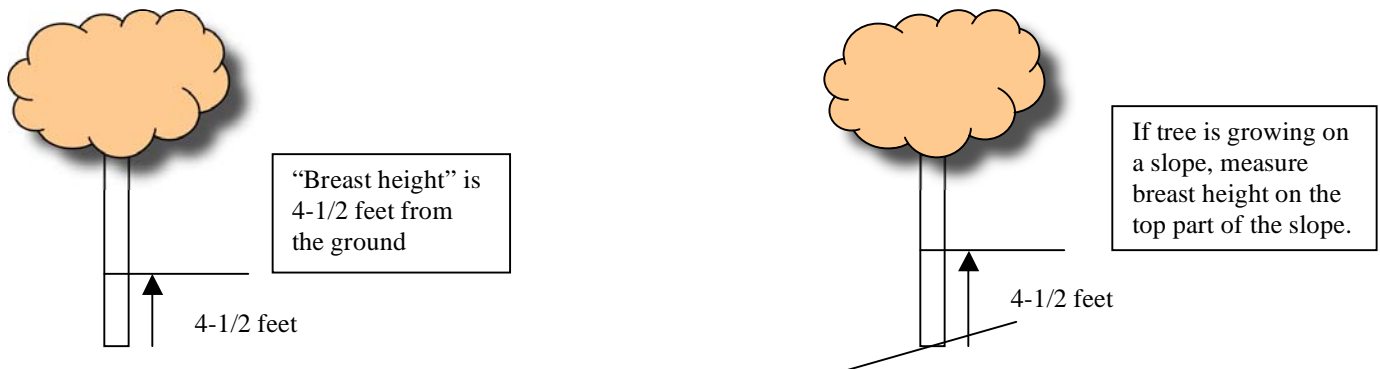
What they're used for:

Foresters use diameter tapes to quickly measure the diameter of a tree. Foresters do this to quickly assess how much wood a tree contains that can be sold or harvested (merchantable timber, pulp wood, other uses).

While you may also determine a tree's diameter by measuring the tree's circumference and then dividing the circumference by pi ($D = C/\pi$), the d-tape is already calibrated to get the diameter quickly.

How to use.

1. Determine breast height on the tree. This is a point on the tree 4-1/2 feet from the ground. (Diameter at breast height = "dbh.")



2. Wrap the diameter tape around the tree at breast height.
3. The reading from the diameter tape is the diameter of that tree at breast height.

Note: If the tree has more than one trunk, if the trunks fork at a point higher than 4-1/2 feet, the tree is a single tree. If the trunks fork at a point lower than 4-1/2 feet, the tree is multi-trunked and dbh is taken from each trunk.

Terms:

Logger tape: same as a diameter tape, only longer

D-tape: abbreviation for diameter tape.