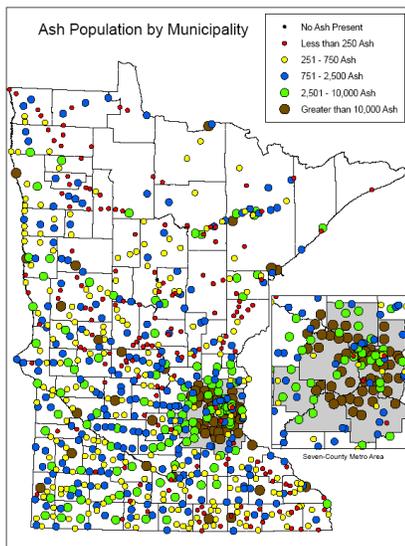




Twin Cities—Markets for Urban Wood With an Emphasis on Ash

Why are Markets and Utilization of Ash Trees Important?

- **Markets and utilization can provide a cost-effective means to accomplish management and mitigation work.** This is more important than ever with the arrival of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB).
- **It is important to obtain as much value as possible for the resource.** Generally speaking, higher value end markets can mean more revenue, which can result in greater ability to manage the resource. There are limitations, and it often is not easy, but making connections with good markets can be worthwhile.
Note: It is critical to know and follow ash quarantine requirements and best practices for safe wood movement. For more information visit www.mda.state.mn.us/plants/pestmanagement/eab.aspx



Urban Ash Resource Overview

Bottom line: There is a lot of ash out there.

Nearly 3 million ash trees grow in cities and towns around the state. Ash trees make up over 6 percent of all trees in Minnesota communities.

Most ash trees in communities are fairly large (over 12 inches in Diameter at Breast Height (DBH)), and many have some evidence of dieback.

Source: *Rapid Assessment of Ash and Elm Resources in Minnesota Communities*, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry, Resource Assessment Unit

Volume, size and condition of trees greatly impacts their marketability!!

Urban Wood Market Overview

- **Fuel (firewood and biomass energy chips).** Generally, fuelwood markets can be a good outlet for large volumes of material, but prices are often relatively low.
- **Mulch and Soil Amendments.** Chips, grindings, or bark used as either a protective covering for the root zone of plants (mulch) or sometimes mixed with soil as an amendment. Generally, these are high volume markets with moderate prices.
- **Pulpwood.** Small logs that could be used by a pulp and paper mill. Very little urban wood is used in these markets, due largely to distance to the mills and also their need for very large volumes.
- **Sawlogs.** Logs that can be used by a sawmill into a solid wood product, such as lumber or flooring. It is not easy to connect urban trees to sawlog markets, but there can be some opportunities. Generally sawlog markets will be lower in volumes they can utilize, but higher in value.

Factors Impacting Wood Products Marketability of Trees

Highlighting Urban Ash Market Factors

- **Species**— Ash is generally in low to moderate demand by sawmills.
- **Size**— Sawlog minimum is generally 13 inches DBH (diameter at breast height). Most urban ash trees are at or above this size.
- **Quality** (rot, form, number of limbs, foreign objects such as nails) Sawlogs should be straight, sound, with few large limbs. Greater potential for foreign objects, rot, and large limbs in urban trees is a limiting factor for sawlog markets, when compared to most rural forest trees.
- **Distance to Market(s)** — Most large sawmills and pulpwood-using mills are not located in urban centers.

Factors Impacting Wood Products Marketability of Trees (continued)

- **Volume**— Generally much lower volumes for urban trees than in a rural forested situation, so fixed costs of harvest such as moving in equipment and crews have to be spread over less volume. This tends to raise the relative cost of production for urban trees.
- **Site Operability**—Urban trees can be difficult and expensive to remove. Many are growing near power lines, houses, etc..
- **Other**— Quarantines in place because of emerald ash borer (EAB) can make movement of ash wood more difficult and costly (but certainly not impossible).

Facilitating Urban Wood Marketability

Important Factors for Obtaining Greater Value for Urban Tree Resources

- The primary objective for ash is to control the spread of EAB.
- Know and follow quarantine requirements and best practices for safe wood movement. Establish compliance agreements with regulatory agencies. For more information visit www.mda.state.mn.us/plants/pestmanagement/eab.aspx
- Explore markets. Make contacts with several potential processors and markets (mills) ahead of time. Ask how to best work together to meet mutual needs.
- Explore the possibility of entering into a wood disposal or utilization contract. There are sample wood disposal contracts on the Web. <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/forestry/uf/eab/filesTOC.asp> Additionally, there are examples of successful community wood disposal and utilization programs that might be willing to share their experiences with you. Incorporate incentives for good utilization.
- Wood collection yards can potentially allow for efficient sorting/marketing for highest value products.
- Cooperative ventures between adjacent communities and/or processing companies may result in higher volumes of material and therefore access to additional markets and improved product prices.
- Information on expected volumes, species, and quality is vital to establishing markets. Potential processors/markets need to know what to expect. “Tweaks” to a street tree inventory system can yield helpful information.
- Get tree quality and value information and “bucking” specifications to tree crews. For more information: v www.ces.purdue.edu/extmedia/FNR/FNR-190.pdf
- Some communities have had success encouraging local use of wood for park benches, picnic tables, and landscape timbers for local parks and trails.

Urban Wood Processors

- **Tree Care Services:** www.license.mn.gov/licenses/licensedetail.jsp?URI=tcm:29-3583&CT_URI=tcm:27-117-32
- **Firewood Producers**— Regulatory and transport information: www.mda.state.mn.us/plants/pestmanagement/firewood.aspx. The basic idea is to facilitate use as near as possible to source of origin or heat-treat firewood.
- **Wood Disposal Sites:** www.mda.state.mn.us/en/sitecore/content/Global/MDADocs/pestsplants/eab/ashtreewaste.aspx
- **Sawmills and Larger Woody Biomass Energy Facilities**
 - Twin Cities Sawmill/ Kiln Listing: http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/um/twincities_sawmill_drykiln_listing.pdf
 - Statewide Sawmill and Wood Processor Directories: www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/um/index.html

Additional Information Resources on Urban Wood Marketing

- DNR Forest Products Utilization Web Page: www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/um/index.html
- DNR MarketPlace Bulletin: Free ad listing of available wood resources to potential markets.
- DNR Forest Products Utilization Staff: Lance Sorensen, Phone: 507-206-2837; E-mail: lance.sorensen@state.mn.us
- Minneapolis Biomass Exchange: List wood resources for sale or disposal to potential markets: <http://mbioex.com/>
- Southeast Michigan RC&D: <http://semircd.org/ash/>
- USDA Forest Service: www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/misc/utilizingmunitrees/index.htm