

Determining Timber Volumes

Foresters have many tools in their toolbox to determine the volume of timber or wood to be cut from a piece of land.

Let's review several of these, and how they're chosen on the Cutting Notice form.

Sawlog volume is reported in board feet, which is a piece of wood that is 12 inches long by 12 inches wide by 1 inch tall, for a total of 144 cubic inches. There are different ways to get 144 cubic inches. Another way is to have a piece of wood 12 inches long, 6 inches wide and 2 inches tall.

Pulpwood volume is reported in cords or tons. A cord is a pile of wood—including air space between the wood—that measures 4 feet wide x 4 feet tall x 8 feet long.

It's becoming more common to sell and report pulpwood volume in tons. Wood that is chipped is generally blown into a semi and hauled to a mill. The truck is then weighed on large scales on the way into the mill and again on the way out. The difference is the weight of the wood.

Telephone poles and fence posts are reported on a per piece basis. If 25 telephone poles are harvested, it should be reported as 25 on the cutting notice and report form.

The same can be said for Christmas trees. If a person cuts 1,000 Christmas trees from their property, they should report that specific number on the Cutting Notice and Report form. There are two categories in which to report Christmas trees: Either as sheared or unsheared.

Firewood is reported in full cords, not face cords. Just remember that firewood used in the owner's own home or dwelling is EXEMPT from payment of yield tax.

If you have questions about the amount of wood being harvested from your property, please contact your local DNR or Cooperating Foresters, or your logging or forestry contractor.

You can find a list of DNR and cooperating foresters on the Department of Natural Resources website at dnr.wi.gov, keyword “*Forestry Assistance Locator*.”