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## NEBRASKA'S FOREST PRODUCTS BULLETIN

# TIMBER TALK

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## LUMBER MARKET REPORTS

### Northern

Data from this week's surveys point out a significant downturn in kiln dried hardwood lumber business. Respondents unanimously stated sales to cabinet, wood furniture, and wood component customers were slow. Activity to distribution yards, residential flooring, truck trailer flooring, and moulding/millwork companies was also described as slow by 75% of those surveyed; the remaining 25% stated business to these market sectors was fair. Two thirds of green lumber suppliers acknowledged sales were fair, with the other one third stating activity was slow for green grade lumber. Comments on industrial markets were more mixed. Half of the responding tie producers stated markets are good, while the other half said demand is either fair or slow. Conversations with treaters and railroad contacts point out uncertainty about future tie needs and availability. If the US economy is slow to improve, there will be fewer tie insertions this summer than were previously planned. And if sawmill operators cannot ship total mill output and residuals, tie supplies could be adversely affected in the longer term. All sectors of the hardwood industry have been damaged to some extent by COVID-19 shutdowns, and there is no clarity on when businesses can expect demand for products to gain traction. It is hardly possible for companies to make sound decisions about the future when there is a high degree of worldwide market volatility.

### Southern

Just as Chinese markets begin to slow, domestic demand for kiln dried lumber is showing signs of improvement. Still, sales and shipments of kiln dried hardwood lumber are not good, overall, and are inadequate to sustain steady, efficient sawmill and dry kiln production. There also are other problems facing area mills. Of particular concern, green #2A&3A markets are extremely weak, due to slow sales and declining prices for solid wood residential and truck trailer flooring. Too, some area mills are struggling to find outlets for residual products, such as chips and sawdust. Sawmill operators cannot run efficiently without having outlets for total production and offal. The estimated annual rate of Eastern US hardwood lumber production fell to 4.317 billion board feet in May, dropping to the lowest level since HMR began tracking these figures (1960). Yet, supply and demand for many products are still not aligned.

### Appalachian

The estimated annual rate of Eastern US hardwood lumber production for May was 4.317 billion board feet. That is barely half the levels of the last three years and is the lowest rate in the 60 years HMR has been tracking production. While production has fallen, demand has plunged even faster. Sawmills are encountering considerable difficulty moving green lumber to almost every market. And, now that exports

are slowing to China, the same is true for drying operations. Green mills typically do not hold onto sawn lumber and industrial products, but many are doing just that because they cannot generate enough orders to cover total output. Contacts throughout the hardwood supply chain believe May will prove to be the low point for the industry, with improvement coming each successive month. With the economy slowly reopening, there is reason for cautious optimism, although the timing and strength of the recovery are uncertain

(Source: Condensed from Hardwood Market Report, June 5, 2020. For more information or to subscribe to Hardwood Market Report, call (901) 767-9216, email: hmr@hmr.com, website: www.hmr.com)

## Hardwood Lumber Prices - Green

Species	FAS				#1C				#2A			
	6/20	2/20	11/19	5/18	2/19	11/18	8/18	5/18	2/19	11/18	8/18	5/18
Ash	1090	1090	1230	1210	695	700	845	810	420	420	455	445
Basswood	780	795	795	795	420	420	430	430	275	215	225	225
Cottonwood	780	780	780	780	575	575	575	575	260	260	260	260
Cherry	980	1010	1050	1110	500	515	555	590	290	310	320	335
Elm	670	670	670	650	420	420	420	420	290	290	290	290
Hackberry	530	530	530	530	480	480	480	480	295	295	295	295
Hickory	785	800	800	850	515	530	530	545	415	400	400	415
Soft Maple	1305	1235	1235	1180	830	820	790	760	470	460	460	460
Red Oak	855	780	760	825	555	530	540	560	445	485	495	515
White Oak	1725	1700	1700	1725	875	885	895	970	510	540	550	550
Walnut	2240	2175	2175	2315	1175	1175	1175	1300	465	465	465	510

Note: Lumber prices quoted in \$/MBF, average market prices FOB mill, truckload and greater quantities, 4/4, rough, green, random widths and lengths graded in accordance with NHLA rules. Prices for ash, basswood, northern soft grey elm, unselected soft maple, red oak and white oak from Northern Hardwoods list. Prices for cottonwood and hackberry from Southern Hardwoods list. Prices for cherry, hickory and walnut (steam treated) from Appalachian Hardwoods list. (Source: Hardwood Market Report (HMR), above prices are from the first issue of the identified month. To subscribe to HMR, call 901-767-9126; email hmr@hmr.com; or go to www.hmr.com.)

## Hardwood Lumber Prices - Kiln Dried

Species	FAS				#1C				#2A			
	6/20	2/20	11/19	8/19	6/20	2/20	11/19	8/19	6/20	2/20	11/19	8/19
Ash	1225	1225	1300	1400	765	830	860	935	595	620	675	720
Basswood	1200	1200	1200	1200	720	720	720	730	475	485	485	485
Cottonwood	1025	1025	1025	1025	760	760	760	760	----	----	----	----
Cherry	1495	1470	1565	1800	970	910	975	1140	575	560	580	680
Elm	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----
Hackberry	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----
Hickory	1425	1425	1450	1460	1000	1000	1040	1080	860	860	900	940
Soft Maple	1810	1715	1690	1630	1165	1170	1150	1105	790	800	800	800
Red Oak	1250	1160	1200	1355	995	900	870	935	790	780	790	805
White Oak	2375	2350	2350	2350	1330	1330	1330	1510	995	1010	1010	1025
Walnut	3650	3575	3575	3725	2050	2050	2100	2375	1130	1165	1215	1450

Note: Kiln dried prices in \$/MBF, FOB mill, is an estimate of predominant prices for 4/4 lumber measured after kiln drying. Prices for cottonwood and hackberry from Southern Hardwoods list. Prices for ash, basswood, northern soft grey elm, unselected soft maple, red oak, and white oak from Northern Hardwood list. Prices for cherry, hickory and walnut (steam treated) from Appalachian Hardwoods list. (Source: Hardwood Market Report (HMR), above prices are from the first issue of the identified month. To subscribe to HMR, call 901-767-9126; email hmr@hmr.com; or go to www.hmr.com.)

### Pallet Lumber - Green

Dimension	6/20	2/20	11/19	8/19
4/4 x RW	355	405	405	405
5/4 x RW	390	420	420	420
6/4 x RW	415	445	445	445
4/4 x SW	400	440	440	440

5/4 x SW 420 450 450 450  
 6/4 x SW 450 480 480 480

**Ties (7x9) - Green**

Region	6/20	2/20	11/19	8/19
Crossties	----	----	----	----
Northern - 8.5'	27.9 - 31.5	27.9 - 31.5	27.9 - 31.5	27.9 - 31.5
Appalachian (South) - 8.5'	29.5 - 34.5	30.5 - 36	30.5 - 35.5	30.5 - 35.5
Appalachian (North) - 8.5'	28.5 - 32.5	30 - 34.5	30.25- 34.25	30.25 - 34.25
Southern (West) - 9'	31.5 - 35.5	31.5 - 37	31.5 - 37	31.5 - 37
Southern (East) - 8.5'	31 - 35.5	31 - 37	31.5 - 37	31.5 - 37

# FOREST NEWS

## **Emerald Ash Borer Confirmed in Kearney**

The Nebraska Department of Agriculture announced that the emerald ash borer (EAB) was found in Kearney. A severely declining street tree located near Pioneer Park was determined to be infested with the insect. This detection adds Buffalo County to the growing list of Nebraska counties with known EAB infestations.



[EAB Info](#)

## **Hardwood Log Scaling**

By Collin Buntrock, Wisconsin DNR forest products team leader, Rhinelander, 608-286-9083 and Scott Lyon, Wisconsin DNR forest products specialist, Green Bay, 920-360-3722

Why scale logs? Log scaling (volume estimation) and log grading (quality determination) provide the basis for the sale of logs thereby encouraging the equitable exchange of logs between landowner, logger, and mill owner. Furthermore, mills may use a combination of scaling and grading as a method for tracking log inventory, quality control, and operating efficiency. Click the link for the full article.

[Hardwood Log Scaling](#)

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## Online Kiln Drying Workshop Recordings Available

Over a 4-week period, NHLA hosted a webinar series on kiln drying hardwood lumber. The series was taught by Gene Wengert, President of the Wood Doctor's Rx LLC, and Professor Emeritus at the University of Wisconsin.

Topics included:

- Measuring moisture content during drying: weighing and moisture meters
- Safe dry wood storage
- Control of dry wood powder post beetle
- Using moisture content to control the drying process
- Causes and cures for drying defects

*To review the recorded webinar, click on the link below.*

[Webinar](#)

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## Timber Sales

The following listings are for stands of timber or logs being offered for sale by owners or persons of delegated authority. Timber was cruised and/or marked for harvest by the Nebraska Forest Service or other professional foresters. Volumes in board feet (Doyle scale unless otherwise indicated) are estimates by the forester. If no volume is listed, the trees or logs were not marked by a forester and the listing is included only as a marketing service to the owner. Listings are prepared according to the information at the time of publication.

### Timber Information

Black Walnut, 40 trees

Veneer 2 – 148 bf

Veneer 3 – 720 bf

Lumber 1 – 1,601 bf

### Forester/Date Seller Information

Karloff 6/2020

Scott Beckman 11741 County Road  
9 Arlington, NE 68002 Ph: (605) 376-  
0906 Location: Washington County

Lumber 2 – 5,286 bf

Lumber 3 – 2,641 bf

Total – 10,396 bf

## TRADING POST

The Trading Post is provided as a free marketing service for the forestry industry. Only forestry-related advertisements will be accepted. Please submit written ads to the Timber Talk editor at least 15 days before scheduled Timber Talk publication dates. Ads may be edited to meet space constraints.

### FOR SALE

**Post Peeler** - Morbark PS8 Post Peeler. Comes with 2 engines, 1 diesel and 1 electric. 8ft in-feed table with short return system. 33 ft of dead rolls with markers for trimming with hydraulic bar saw. Markers for 6½, 7, 8 and 10ft posts. Several bunks and banding equipment included. 24ft triple axle trailer for hauling also included. In excellent condition. Video available. Call John Hahn. 308-430-0630(c); 308-638-7531(h) Hay Springs, Nebraska.

**Mulch** - City of Nebraska City has approx. 60 semi loads of single grind mulch \$200/ semi load or \$50/dump truck load. Shipping not included. Arrangements will be made to load. Contact: Marty Stovall 402-873-5515 or email [mstovall@nebraskacity.com](mailto:mstovall@nebraskacity.com).

**Sawmill** - Mighty Mite bandsaw. 20 HP electric motor, tandem axles w/ brakes on one axle, 36" x 24' log capacity, (have cut 46" beams) hydraulic operation includes winch, knees, taper, near arm, dogging arms, far arm, dogging spike, log loading arms, and electric clutch and blade lift. Includes automatic blade sharpener, setting machine, 12 used blades and 4 new blades. Excellent condition. Never been used commercially. \$17,500. Contact: Gary Fisher, Crawford, NE. Phone: 308-665-1580; email: [fisher@bbcbw.net](mailto:fisher@bbcbw.net).

**Walnut Lumber** - All dimensions. \$3.00 per board foot. Falls City, NE. Contact: Bruce Walker at 402-245-2031.

### SERVICES AND MISC.

**Portable Sawmilling Service** - Offering portable sawmilling service, turning your logs into valuable lumber. Contact : Doug Patton, D&S Sawmill Services, Palmyra, NE. Phone : (402)-269-4866 or Email : [dssawmillservices@gmail.com](mailto:dssawmillservices@gmail.com)

**Woodshop Services** - Millwork made from your lumber on my planer/molder. Chris Marlowe, Butte, NE 402-775-5000. [Marlowepasture@nntc.net](mailto:Marlowepasture@nntc.net).

**Sawmill Service and Supplies** - Saw hammering and welding. Precision knife and saw grinding. Contact: Tim Schram, Schram Saw and Machine, PO Box 718, 204 E. 3rd St., Ponca, NE 68770, 402-755-4294.

**Used Portable Sawmills** - North America's largest source of used portable sawmills and equipment. Contact: Sawmill Exchange, 800-459-2148, website: [www.sawmillexchange.com](http://www.sawmillexchange.com).

### WANTED

**Wood Residue** - Slab wood, cutoffs, sawdust, mulch, bales, etc. Lincoln, NE. Call Scott Hofeling at 402-432-0806 or email [scott@hofelingenterprises.com](mailto:scott@hofelingenterprises.com).

**Logs and Slabwood** - Cottonwood, cedar and pine. 4-26" diameter and 90-100" lengths. Below saw grade logs acceptable. Contact: American Wood Fibers, Clarks, NE at 800-662- 5459; or email: Pat Krish at [pkrish@AWF.com](mailto:pkrish@AWF.com).

**Cottonwood Logs** - Veneer-quality cottonwood logs, 16-36" diameter, 7' and longer. Pick up service available. Contact: Barcel Mill & Lumber, Bellwood, NE 68624. Ask for Barton or Megan. Phone: 800-201-4780; email: [bj@barcelmill.com](mailto:bj@barcelmill.com).



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