



NEBRASKA'S FOREST PRODUCTS BULLETIN

TIMBER TALK

LUMBER MARKET REPORTS

Northern

A higher percentage of Northern hardwood production is consumed in the US and Canada than Southern or Appalachian production. Maples and white-woods, in general, are not exported to the extent as Oak, Poplar, and Walnut, for example. The dependence on domestic and cross border trading has been advantageous to Northern producers during this unprecedented run up in new home construction and historically high private spending on single family homes and remodeling. The US is entering the 12th consecutive year of increased new home starts. The longest streak prior to the current one was five years. In January, private spending on residential construction reached \$719 billion, by far the highest amount since US Census began tracking data. February's numbers were nearly as high (\$713B). The fact that the domestic marketplace favors whitewoods has also been a plus for Northern suppliers. But, Northern hardwoods are sold globally, as well, and international business has also picked up. Despite a good winter timber harvesting season in the North Country, followed by a short spring breakup, log decks and green lumber production have not increased at the same rate as demand for sawn products. Lumber shortages are currently commonplace, at a time of year when surpluses are expected to support demand into and throughout summer. Many sellers state that order files are deep. This combination has pushed prices for some species, grades, and thicknesses to all time highs. Hard Maple, Soft Maple, Walnut, and White Oak have performed particularly well, though markets for lower cost substitute species have ticked up alongside the more popular species.

Southern

Markets for hardwood finished goods and lumber remain strong. Domestically, new home construction and record setting spending on single family housing and remodeling are driving business. Outside of the US, many countries are reopening after extended lockdowns, buoying demand for US produced lumber all the more. At the same time, sawmill operators are boosting production to the extent personnel will allow. Labor issues continue to restrain mill owners from substantially increasing output through improved workflow efficiencies or by expanding capacity utilization. However, sawmill production is increasing and is easing price pressures on green lumber in a number of species, grades and thicknesses.

Appalachian

US gross domestic product increased at an annualized rate of 6.4% in the first quarter of 2021, according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis. From all reports, economic expansion remains robust as we approach the middle of the second quarter. Perhaps most important, from a hardwood industry perspective, home construction and remodeling markets are highly energized. Wood flooring, cabinets,

furniture, moulding, doors, blinds and shutter, and a variety of other products for the home are in high demand, as is upholstered furniture. Markets for wood pallets and containers are vibrant. Eastern US hardwood sawmill production is edging up, but most domestic end use markets are still undersupplied. Labor and transportation issues are also restraining what might otherwise be faster growth in lumber and finished goods output.

(Source: Condensed from Hardwood Market Report, May 7, 2021. 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			
	5/21	2/21	11/20	8/20	5/21	2/21	11/20	8/20	5/21	2/21	11/20	8/20
Ash	1070	930	830	775	665	540	495	460	400	305	295	290
Basswood	885	830	740	755	465	425	400	410	215	205	195	205
Cottonwood	780	780	780	780	575	575	575	575	260	260	260	260
Cherry	1450	1120	900	925	830	615	485	480	470	360	290	290
Elm	670	670	670	670	420	420	420	420	290	290	290	290
Hackberry	530	530	530	530	480	480	480	480	295	295	295	295
Hickory	975	875	795	755	700	615	530	500	600	430	430	400
Soft Maple	1600	1365	1245	1245	1100	890	805	790	660	470	450	450
Red Oak	1285	1090	915	855	855	705	605	555	620	495	425	415
White Oak	2415	2045	1815	1725	1125	935	820	810	680	545	480	480
Walnut	3025	3025	2470	2265	1715	1715	1325	1175	850	850	590	465

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			
	5/21	2/21	11/20	8/20	5/21	2/21	11/20	8/20	5/21	2/21	11/20	8/20
Ash	1625	1350	1260	1200	1090	870	765	715	740	580	565	575
Basswood	1375	1250	1100	1165	800	735	725	710	495	465	465	465
Cottonwood	1025	1025	1025	1025	760	760	760	760	----	----	----	----
Cherry	2290	1860	1500	1550	1415	1130	950	985	850	650	545	620
Elm	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----
Hackberry	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----
Hickory	1630	1525	1450	1400	1250	1160	1050	1035	1090	985	885	900
Soft Maple	2425	1990	1810	1810	1435	1210	1145	1145	865	780	765	765
Red Oak	1985	1655	1385	1275	1430	1230	1070	995	1075	875	775	775
White Oak	3595	3110	2655	2445	1835	1515	1290	1290	1075	1035	960	945
Walnut	5190	4385	3800	3650	3290	2610	2180	2030	2025	1545	1170	1080

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	5/21	2/21	11/20	8/20
4/4 x RW	400	365	335	335
5/4 x RW	435	400	370	370
6/4 x RW	460	425	395	405
4/4 x SW	445	410	380	380
5/4 x SW	465	430	400	400
6/4 x SW	495	460	440	440

Ties (7x9) - Green

Region	5/21	2/21	11/20	8/20
Crossties	----	----	----	----
Northern - 8.5'	28.4-32	27.9-31.5	27.9-31.5	27.9-31.5
Appalachian (South) - 8.5'	29.75-33.75	27.75-32.75	29-34	29.5-34.5
Appalachian (North) - 8.5'	28.25-32.25	27.5-31.5	28-32	28.5-32.5
Southern (West) - 9'	33-37	31.5-35.5	31.5-35.5	31.5-35.5
Southern (East) - 8.5'	31.5-36	30.25-34.5	31-34.5	31-35

Not+A1:M41e: Pallet lumber prices quoted in \$/MBF, average market prices FOB mill, truckload and greater quantities, rough, green, random widths and lengths graded in accordance with NHLA rules. Tie prices quoted in \$/piece, average market prices FOB mill. Prices for pallet lumber from Northern Hardwood list. Prices for ties from the respective regional lists. (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.)

FOREST NEWS

Field Day to Kick-off Effort to Revive Nebraska Chapter of National Walnut Council



Walnut timber enthusiasts, forest landowners, and other interested parties are invited to a forestry field day hosted at Walnut Grove Tree Farm north of Lincoln on Saturday, June 19. The event is hosted and coordinated by Dennis Adams (retired NFS Rural Forestry Program Leader) and LeRoy Sievers (shareholder in Backacres LLC walnut tree farm and member of the National Walnut Council Board of Directors).

This is a good opportunity to see first-hand the long-term management of black walnut trees in a mature, natural woodland setting and also in a relatively young plantation of trees grown from selected nuts," says LeRoy Sievers. Regarding the opportunity to revive the Walnut Council presence in Nebraska, "we think that everyone can gain something from well-organized and well-presented field days that cover

topics of interest to forestry enthusiasts here in Nebraska.”

The Nebraska Chapter of Walnut Council has been dormant now for over ten years. The National Walnut Council would gladly welcome a Nebraska contingent back to the table if there was enough commitment by walnut enthusiasts in the state to revive the chapter. Throughout the day, there may be some informal discussion on whether to pursue this option or potentially start some form of forest owner’s group tied into the National Walnut Council.

- Steve Karloff, Past President of Nebraska Walnut Council

The field day will highlight various topics covering the establishment of walnut plantings, care and management of forest stands and plantations, and preparing your timber for harvest. See the full schedule here.

Because lunch will be provided, please let LeRoy or Dennis know if you will be attending so that adequate food will be on hand. Also, if you have any questions about the event, please contact LeRoy W. Sievers (leroy.sievers@gmail.com or 402-488-0988) or Dennis Adams (dmadams46@gmail.com or 402-840-1562).

AGENDA

Date: Saturday, June 19, 2021

Location: Walnut Grove Tree Farm, 19020 NW 12th Street, Raymond, NE

10:00 am - Welcome & overview of Field Day activities - LeRoy Sievers

- Introductions of attendees
- History of Walnut Grove Tree Farm - Dennis Adams

10:30 am - Natural Woodland Tour

- Management Objectives
- Site Productivity
- Species Selection
- Thinning
- Harvests
- Tree/Log Measurement
- Tree/Log Grading & Value

Noon - Lunch (provided)

1:00 pm - Black Walnut Plantation Tour

- Objectives
- Site Selection
- Planting Stock
- Competition Control
- Pruning
- Thinning
- Harvests

2:30 pm - Wrap Up

- Possible reorganization of Nebraska Chapter of Walnut Council
- Future Meetings?
- Questions

Are record-setting lumber prices giving you the “wood-buying blues?” Shop Nebraska’s sawmills.



Lumber prices during the pandemic reached record highs, with softwood lumber prices increasing 377% between May 4, 2020, and May 5, 2021 (source: tradingeconomics.com). In 2020, \$50,000 worth of lumber would build ten single-family units (2,301 square feet, Source: Census Bureau, Home Preservation Manual). In 2021, that same \$50,000 of lumber would build only two single-family units. Home starts and home renovation demands are frequently linked to this dramatic increase in lumber prices.

While softwood lumber is largely the focus of media stories about the problem, hardwood lumber prices have also increased 30-70% over the past year (depending on species, grade, and thickness) (source: Hardwood Market Report).

If increased lumber prices at your typical retail vendor have you second-guessing your next project or renovation, consider shopping at your local Nebraska sawmill. In an impromptu survey of a handful of Nebraska mills, none of the surveyed Nebraska mills had increased their prices over the past year in response to this increase in lumber demand. The Nebraska Primary Processors directory includes a partial listing of Nebraska mills, offering a wide variety of products to meet your needs (<https://nfs.unl.edu/timber-buyers>). Whether you are looking for Siberian elm fireplace mantles, cedar paneling, kiln-dried walnut, live edge ash slabs, or rough-sawn pine, your local Nebraska sawmill may have you covered.

TIMBER SALES

No new sales to report in this issue.

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

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@bbcwb.net.

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

Services and Miscellaneous

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

Woodshop Services. Millwork made from your lumber on my planer/molder. Chris Marlowe, Butte, NE 402-775-5000. 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.

Wanted

Wood Residue. Slab wood, cutoffs, sawdust, mulch, bales, etc. Lincoln, NE. Call Scott Hofeling at 402-432-0806 or email 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

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.



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