

Tree Age Equation

We all know you can count the rings inside the trunk to determine a tree's age, but how do we determine the age of a tree if we don't want to cut it down? There is a simple formula you can use to do just that.



1.

Find a tree that you want to know the age of. Make sure it is a tree that is listed in the Growth Factor table below.

2.

Measure the **circumference** (in inches) of the tree trunk at eye-level. Record that number here:

Circumference = _____ Inches

3.

Determine the **diameter** of the trunk by dividing the circumference by 3.14. Record that number here:

Circumference/3.14

Diameter = _____ Inches

4.

Multiply the diameter by the growth factor for its species in the table below. That number is the tree's age!

Diameter x Growth Factor

Age = _____ Years Old!

Tree Species	Growth Factor	Tree Species	Growth Factor
Red Maple	4.5	White Oak	5.0
Silver Maple	3.0	Red Oak	4.0
Sugar Maple	5.0	Pin Oak	3.0
River Birch	3.5	Linden or Basswood	3.0
White Birch	5.0	American Elm	4.0
Shagbark Hickory	7.5	Ironwood	7.0
Green Ash	4.0	Cottonwood	2.0
Black Walnut	4.5	Dogwood	7.0
Black Cherry	5.0	Redbud	7.0