

# How to Measure a Tree's Diameter

How big are your trees? How fast are they growing? They may seem like they never get any bigger, but they are growing all the time. You can track that growth using a special kind of measuring tape called a diameter tape or "d-tape".

## Instructions:

To measure a tree's diameter, follow these steps:

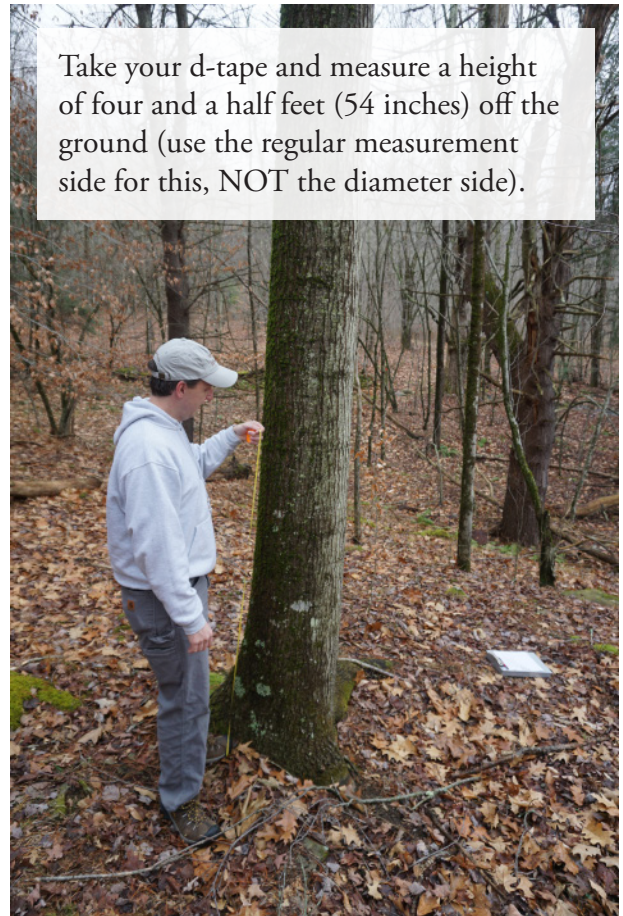
1.

Stand on the uphill side of the tree.



2.

Take your d-tape and measure a height of four and a half feet (54 inches) off the ground (use the regular measurement side for this, NOT the diameter side).





3.

Wrap your d-tape around the tree at the height you just measured. Do your best to keep the tape level the whole way around the tree, and make sure it doesn't catch on any low-hanging branches.



4.

Bring the end of the tape around so the tape overlaps itself. Make sure the diameter side of the d-tape is showing (it will usually say "DIA" or "Diameter" on that side). The measurement where the tape's "zero" reading overlaps the tape is the diameter of the tree. The red oak tree in our example is about 14.3 inches in diameter.



5.

Make sure you write down your tree's diameter. That way you can check it again next year and see how much it's grown!

## Tip:

If a tree forks above four and a half feet, measure it as one tree (left). If a tree forks below four and a half feet, measure it as if it were two trees (right).

