



Dr. David Mercker, UT Extension Forester
dmercker@utk.edu, (731) 425-4703

For Forestry Assistance contact:
Division of Forestry (615) 837-5520

Extension Insights into Forestry

FORESTRY *footnotes*

current topics >>>

Events

*Tennessee Forestry Association
Annual Convention*
www.tnforestry.com
October 16 - 18: Knoxville

News

*Don Hodges Named New Head of UT
Dept. of Forestry, Wildlife & Fisheries*
<https://tiny.utk.edu/NewHeadFWF>

News on Thousand Cankers Disease
In 2010, a potentially devastating black walnut disease was discovered in east Tennessee. Known as Thousand Cankers Disease (TCD), the disease spreads as walnut twig beetles chew tunnels into branches and carry with them a fungus. The fungus creates branch cankers that eventually kill trees. The spread of the disease over the past few years seems to have subsided in the eastern US, a phenomenon that may be related to climate. More favorable weather (cooler temperatures and higher rainfall) have improved growing conditions, and the disease is fading (Jackson Landers, June 2019, The Forestry Source).

*Tennessee Nursery Seedlings Now
Available for Order.*
www.PlantTNTrees.org
(877) 868-7337



Market Highlights

This summer has been challenging for hardwood lumber markets. Following the extended wet winter and spring, there was great anticipation that prices would be strong. This didn't happen - a result of slow domestic demand and the Chinese tariffs. There is ample lumber to accommodate orders, especially in the higher grades. However, markets for low grade lumber, such as rail road ties, pallets, mat timbers, cants, etc., is solid.

Research

Why Do Some Sugar Maple Logs Have Much Darker Heartwood?

Consumers prefer white-colored sugar maple. Dark heartwood significantly lowers market price. Joel Kaminski, et. al., (Journal of Forestry, 2019) examined the causes that bring about darkened heartwood and found that the proportion of dark heart was greater in trees with the following characteristics: more external defects (knots, etc.), larger diameters, and slower growth rates.



The extent of dark heartwood affects log value. Kretzlumber.com

Are Genetically Improved Loblolly Pine Seedlings Worth It?

Steven McKeand (Journal of Forestry, 2019) seems to think so. Throughout the latter part of last century and the early 2000's, many of the forest products companies invested in tree improvement programs. Private forest landowners are now reaping the benefits of selective breeding, which increases the long-term profitability. Advanced loblolly pine seedlings were bred to have increased productivity, improved stem and wood quality, and enhanced disease resistance.