

DBH Measurement Guide

Get to know the different parts of a tree!

DBH Tape or Caliper?

- Use DBH tape when the diameter is greater than or equal to 1 inch at 4.5 feet high
- Take DBH measurement at 1.37m/4.5ft
- Use caliper for trees with DBH under 1 inch
- Take caliper measurement at 1ft, not 1.37m

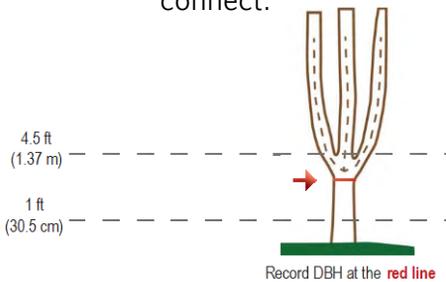
Other things to remember:

- Record the height you measure DBH
- Make sure DBH tape is snug against trunk when measuring.
- Take notes, especially when measuring odd trees!

Measuring multi-stem trees

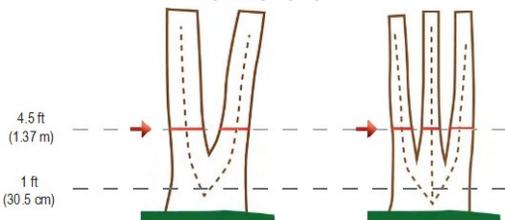
Picture the pith:

If forked stems originate above 1 ft, treat as a single stem. Determine the stem origin by imagining where the **piths** (center of each stem) connect. Measure the diameter just below where the piths connect.



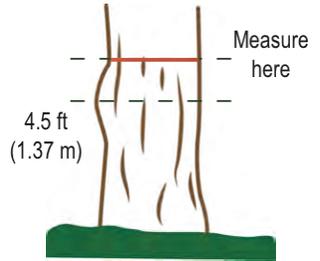
Multi-stem might mean multi-measurements:

When forked stems originate below 1 ft high, treat as a multi-stem tree. Measure the 6 largest stems at 4.5 ft. Start with the largest, and move clockwise from there.

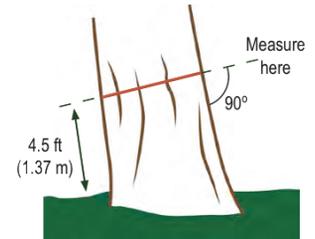


Measuring common trunk issues

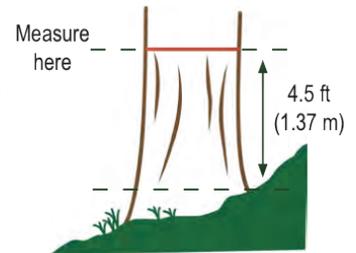
Irregularity in trunk: Measure just above the irregularity. (For buttresses, measure 1.5ft above the swell, or at 4.5ft, whichever is higher)



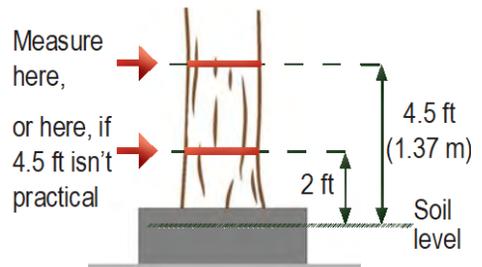
Leaning trunk: Measure at 4.5ft on underside of trunk and *perpendicular to trunk*



Tree on slope: Measure at 4.5ft on uphill side of slope, *perpendicular to trunk*



Tree in raised planter: Measure at 4.5 ft above soil level. If impractical, measure at 2 ft above soil level



Diagrams from Urban Tree Monitoring Protocols Field Guide 2015



The mobile app is available for free at the Apple App Store and on Google Play.

