

1968

Notes on Forestry and Wood Use: Price Report on Indiana Timber Products

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Brundage, Roy C. and Straszheim, R.E., "Notes on Forestry and Wood Use: Price Report on Indiana Timber Products" (1968). *Timber Reports*. Paper 39.
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Notes on Forestry and Wood-use



Purdue University
Cooperative Extension Service
Lafayette, Indiana

F-23-13
July, 1968

PRICE REPORT ON INDIANA TIMBER PRODUCTS

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The price data given in this report were obtained from questionnaires returned by sawmills and other primary wood-using industries in the spring of 1968. Quotations were for average prices paid for logs and other products during the month of March. Prices have been summarized for two areas; northern and southern Indiana, Figure 1. The rates for custom sawing of sawlogs, timber cutting and hauling were also obtained in the survey.

Sawlogs

Prices for delivered sawlogs for eight species in northern Indiana showed a strong upward trend in 1968 over those of last year, Table 1. These species were white ash, basswood, beech, cherry, sugar maple, white oak, red oak, and black walnut. Species with an increase of 4 to 9 dollars per thousand board feet for number one or better logs included white ash, beech, cherry, sugar maple, white oak and red oak except for prime logs. Prices for black walnut showed an increase for all grades, but especially for number one and prime logs. Undoubtedly, the prices given by sawmill operators for black walnut reflect the fact that many walnut logs are purchased for resale as veneer logs.



Figure 1. Dark line divides northern and southern areas to which price data apply.

Other species that had an average price increase, but to a lesser degree, were cottonwood, the better grade of hickory logs, soft maple, tulip poplar, and sycamore. Prices of black oak logs showed a definite weakness in 1968 especially for lower grade

Table 1. Prices paid for delivered sawlogs, March 1968, northern Indiana*

Species	PRIME LOGS		NO. 1 LOGS		NO. 2 LOGS		NO. 3 LOGS			
	Range	Average	Range	Average	Range	Average	Range	Average		
	1968	1967	1968	1967	1968	1967	1968	1967		
46 White Ash	70-130	98	90	75	45-85	59	50	30-60	48	43
41 Basswood	70-140	93	89	80	40-90	60	51	40-60	51	45
77 Beech	60-80	68	59	54	40-60	49	43	20-55	41	42
75 Cottonwood	45-65	56	55	50	30-60	44	42	40-50	46	44
47 Cherry	90-150	125	116	97	50-90	71	61	50-70	57	47
52 White Elm	50-55	52	56	52	-- --	--	46	-- --	--	45
66 Shagbark Hickory	50-70	60	56	53	25-60	47	47	20-50	39	44
44 Sugar Maple	90-150	126	121	95	45-115	72	64	30-80	54	50
43 Soft Maple	70-120	97	99	83	45-90	63	58	25-60	49	47
22 White Oak	75-130	96	90	75	30-80	56	55	20-60	44	41
35 Red Oak	70-100	91	89	74	40-75	59	50	30-60	48	42
37 Black Oak	60-80	66	67	56	25-60	43	47	20-55	38	42
45 Tulip Poplar	75-130	102	100	84	30-80	60	58	20-60	44	46
76 Sycamore	50-75	62	60	54	30-65	49	48	20-55	37	44
11 Black Walnut	120-1500	457	222	181	80-210	138	126	50-200	118	94

*Prices are per thousand board feet Doyle Log Scale.

Table 2. Prices paid for delivered sawlogs, March 1968, southern Indiana*

Species	PRIME LOGS		NO. 1 LOGS		NO. 2 LOGS		NO. 3 LOGS	
	Range 1968	Average 1967	Range 1968	Average 1967	Range 1968	Average 1968	Range 1968	Average 1967
	Dollars		Dollars		Dollars		Dollars	
108 White Ash	55-150	9597	40-120	7277	30-80	5155	20-60	4044
41 Basswood	60-125	9092	50-100	7175	35-80	5357	35-60	4548
77 Beech	50-90	6366	40-80	5557	30-60	4346	20-60	4041
75 Cottonwood	45-70	57	35-65	4850	30-60	44	20-55	4144
42 Cherry	70-200	11712	50-125	8794	40-80	5865	30-60	4551
56 White Elm	40-80	5554	30-65	4750	30-50	40	20-50	37
66 Shagbark Hickory	50-80	60	40-65	5153	30-50	4245	20-50	3738
44 Sugar Maple	70-175	122124	60-150	9699	35-100	6167	20-70	4550
43 Soft Maple	60-125	8993	40-100	6970	30-75	5157	20-65	4447
22 White Oak	70-150	9897	50-120	7579	35-80	5455	25-60	4143
25 Red Oak	70-120	8689	50-85	6572	30-70	4954	20-55	3843
27 Black Oak	60-100	7872	40-85	5958	30-60	4544	20-55	38
45 Tulip Poplar	70-150	109106	60-120	8385	40-80	5960	30-60	44
76 Sycamore	50-80	6061	40-65	5254	30-60	4346	20-55	4039
71 Sweet Gum	50-100	71	30-80	54	30-60	44	20-50	37
11 Black Walnut	150-600	338398	100-300	194219	50-200	120129	50-100	7798

* Prices are per thousand board feet, Doyle Log Scale.

Table 3. Delivered prices of logs purchased for face and commercial veneer, March 1968, northern Indiana *

Species	Log diameter (inches)	Prime logs			Select logs		
		Range 1968	Average		Range 1968	Average	
			1968	1967		1968	1967
White Oak	16 and over	\$175-300	249	---	\$120-200	146	---
Sugar Maple	16 and over	200-350	283	---	150-325	250	---
Tulip Poplar	16 and over	150-300	196	---	60-115	116	---
Black Walnut	16-17	500-1500	1050	412	150-600	417	370
	18-20	625-1500	1156	550	150-650	460	400
	21-23	750-1500	1188	750	150-650	479	500
	24 and over	875-1500	1312	1075	150-650	507	767

*Prices are per thousand board feet, Doyle Log Scale.

logs. The situation was worse for white elm and prices were either about the same as those of last year or slightly lower.

In southern Indiana the average prices of delivered sawlogs showed much less change this year from 1967 than those of northern Indiana. Species that had advances in price, for all grades of logs, were white oak, cherry, sugar maple and black walnut. Average price increases for these ranged from one to 54 dollars per thousand board feet with sugar maple and black walnut showing the largest average price increase. Number one and prime logs increased from one to 5 dollars for red oak and shagbark hickory. Soft maple, white oak, tulip poplar, sweet gum, and elm declined from one to 6 dollars in average price for most log grades.

Veneer Logs

Prices for prime black veneer logs for face veneer showed a strong increase over last year; both in the northern and southern areas, Tables 3 and 4. Increases were generally around 20 per cent but in some cases were 30 per cent or more. The range of price quotations indicated that log diameters has much less influence on its value than is generally assumed. While some markets show price increases for larger diameter walnut logs, others indicate that top prices are paid

for all size of prime and select grade logs. Also, top price quotations for walnut logs from southern markets exceeded those from the north and averages were generally higher again this year.

White oak veneer prices were down 10 to 30 dollars on the average. The range in quotations were lower, also, for sugar maple and tulip poplar this year.

Container Veneer Logs

Delivered prices per thousand board feet for container veneer logs in southern Indiana were as follows:

Species	Prime and No. 1 logs	No. 2 logs
Cottonwood, Sycamore, and Beech	\$50-80	\$40
Soft Maple	60-80	40-50
Sweet Gum	60-100	40-60
Black Gum	50-70	30

Crossties

Price for crossties delivered to yards in southern Indiana ranged from 90 cents to \$3.15. Price varies with species and grade

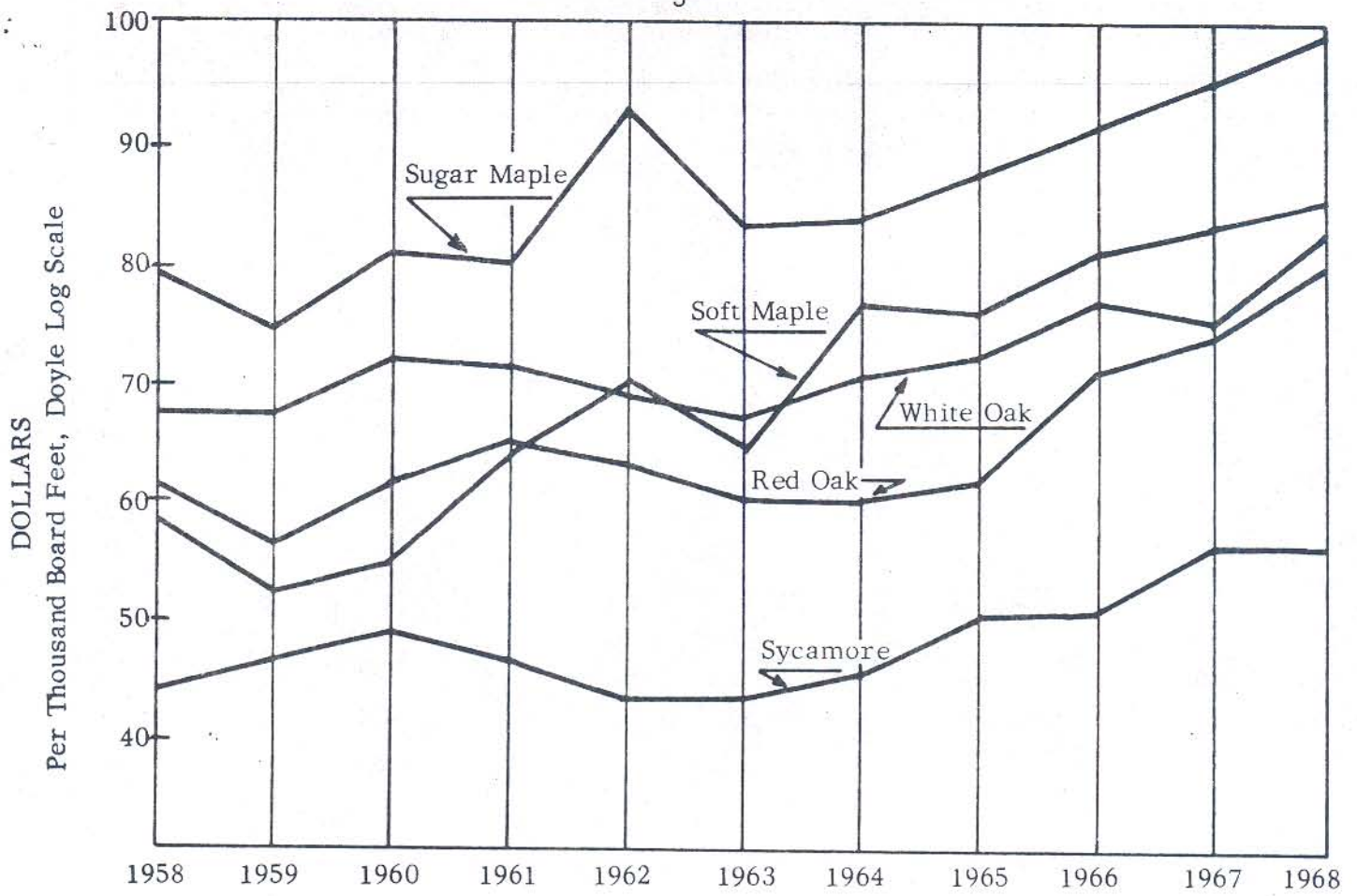


Figure 2. Average delivered prices of number one grade sawlogs for five species in northern Indiana, 1958-1968.

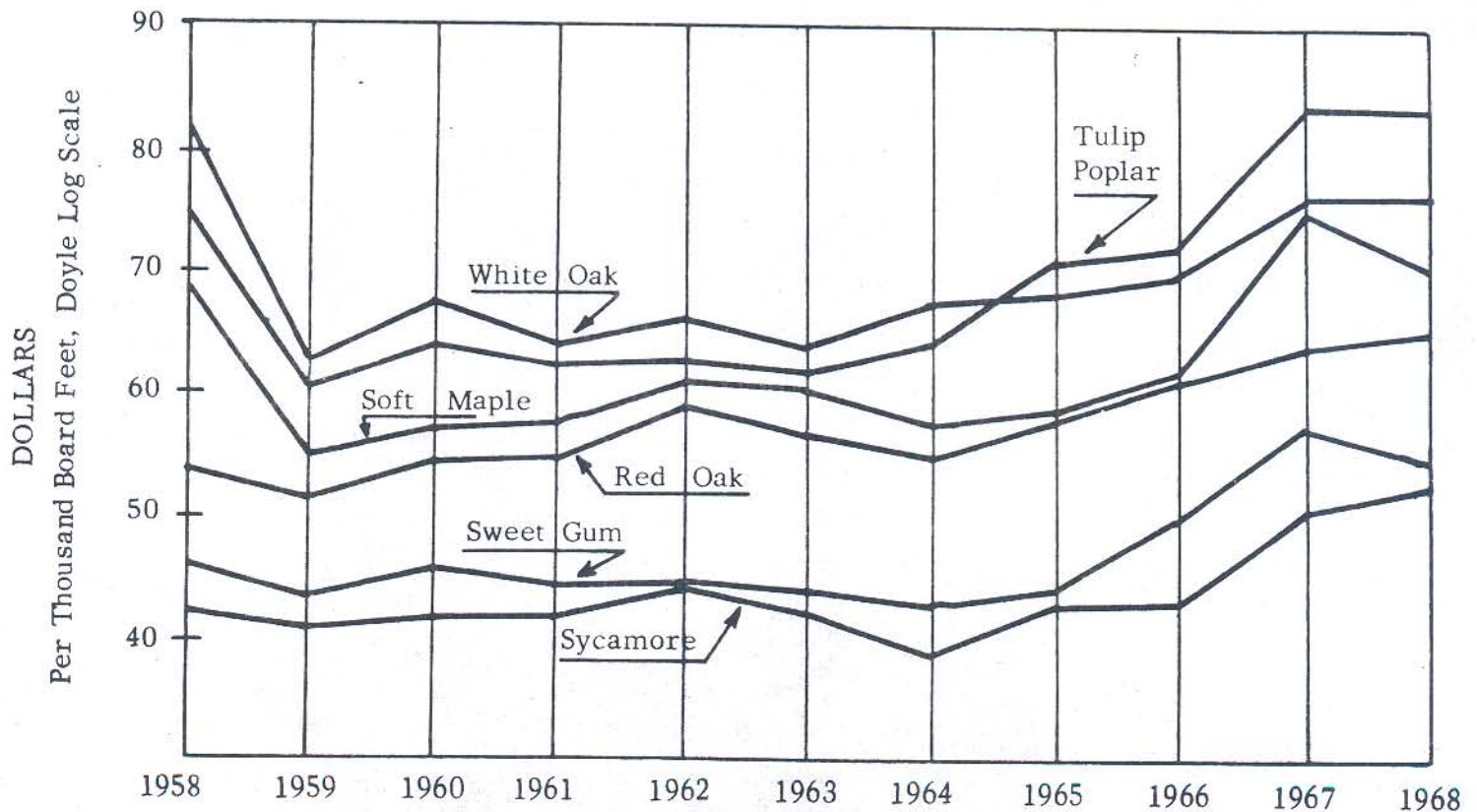


Figure 3. Average delivered prices of number one grade sawlogs for six species in southern Indiana, 1958-1968.

Table 4. Delivered prices of logs purchased for face veneer, March 1968, Southern Indiana*

Species	Log diameter inches	Prime logs			Select logs		
		Range 1968	Average		Range 1968	Average	
			1968	1967		1968	1967
		dollars			dollars		
White Oak	16-17	100-200	143	162	100-120	108	125
	18-20	125-250	186	185	100-200	139	158
	21-23	130-300	210	244	100-250	166	200
	24-28+	100-350	248	302	80-300	186	217
Black Walnut	16-17	400-1500	967	796	200-800	464	510
	18-20	400-1800	1233	916	200-1500	635	615
	21-23	600-1800	1300	966	300-1500	662	620
	24-28+	800-1800	1367	1078	300-1500	694	712

*Prices are per thousand board feet, Doyle Log Scale

classification. White oak, red oak and black oak ties were usually 20 to 25 cents higher in price than beech and other species accepted in the Tc group.

Pulpwood (unpeeled)

Hardwood species accepted for pulpwood in Indiana markets include all native hardwoods except black walnut, hedge or osage orange, black locust, and hickory. Some markets will accept a limited amount of hickory. Diameter of sticks accepted range from 5 inches on small end of stick to the largest diameter of 16 inches. In one market, the limit is 14 inches largest diameter. The length of sticks varies by market from 6 to 7-1/2 feet. Wood must be freshly cut.

In some markets, a quota is given each producer; thus, it is essential to contact a market for a definite order prior to any cutting and to get clearance on species accepted.

Prices reported for 1968 were about the same as for 1967 as far as the base delivered price. These ranged from 5 to 7 dollars with the price dependent upon hauling distance. In some yards, a flat price is paid regardless of the length of haul.

Custom Rates: Cutting, Hauling, Sawing

The rates for timber cutting in the northern area averaged \$10.25 compared to \$11.00 in the south, Table 5. Top quotations for cutting in the south were 5 dollars larger - twenty

Table 5. Custom rates for lumber sawing, timber cutting and hauling (per thousand feet) 1968

Operation	Northern Indiana			Southern Indiana			
	Range 1968	Average		Range 1968	Average		
		1968	1967		1968	1967	
		dollars			dollars		
Sawing logs into lumber	20-50	32.79	34.43	27.50-40	32.67	30.41	
Timber cutting	8-15	10.25	9.82	7-20	11.00	11.75	
Timber hauling	10-25	18.00	17.08	10-30	18.64	15.82	

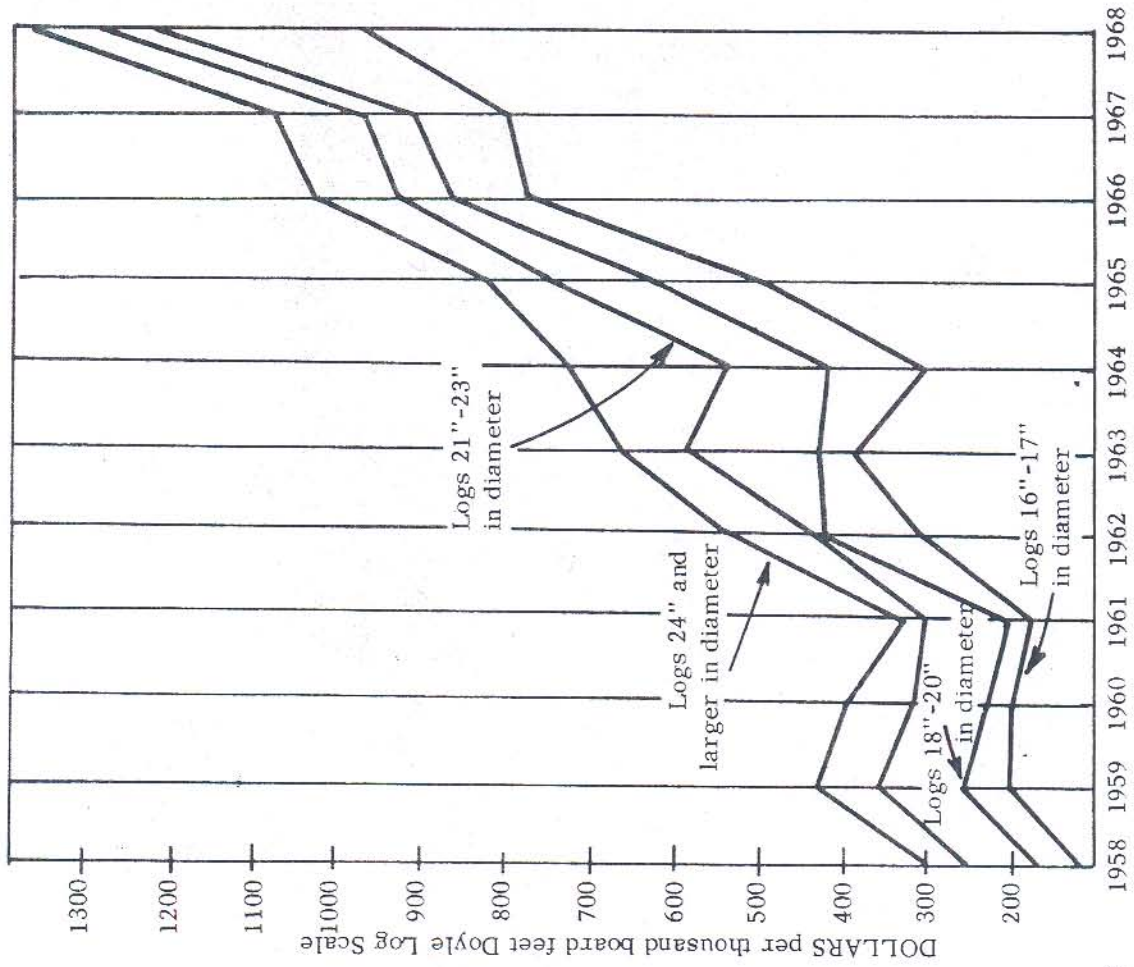


Figure 5. Average delivered prices of prime black walnut veneer logs in southern Indiana, 1958-1968.

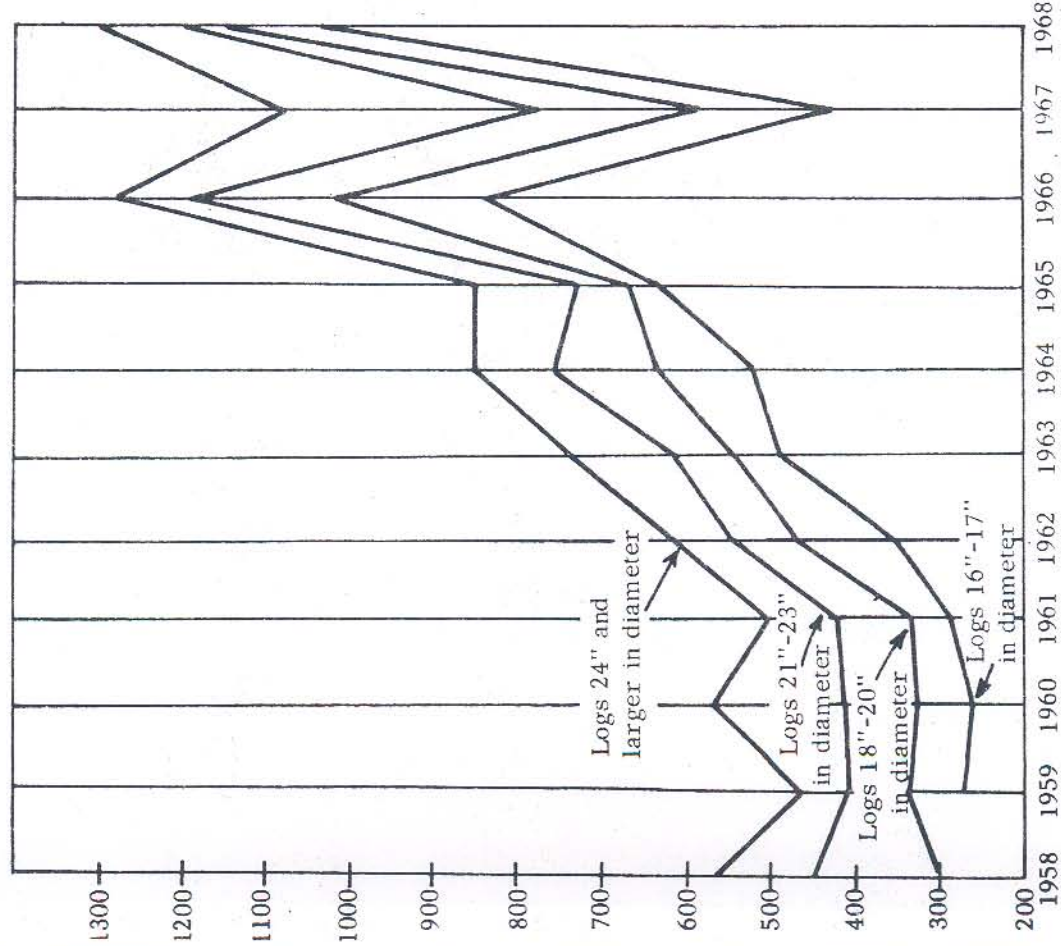


Figure 4. Average delivered prices of prime black walnut veneer logs in northern Indiana, 1958-1968.

dollars compared to 15 in the north. Timber hauling charges, also, were higher in the south because of a five dollar differential in the top charges for hauling.

lars was given again this year in northern areas and 40 dollars in the south. However, the lowest rate quoted in southern Indiana advanced from \$19.00 in 1967 to \$27.50 in 1968.

Custom Rates: Cutting, Hauling, Sawing

Average charges by sawmill operators for custom sawing of logs were about the same throughout the state. In the north, the average sawing charge was \$32.79 compared to \$32.67 in the south. A top rate of 50 dol-

Log Rules

No legal rule has been adapted for the measurement of logs in Indiana. The Doyle Log Rule is the customary rule used for measuring logs in Indiana markets, Figure 6.

Diameter (Small end of log inside bark) Inches	Length of Log, Feet													
	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	20
	Volume, board feet													
8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	20
9	9	11	13	14	16	17	19	20	22	23	25	26	28	31
10	13	16	18	20	23	25	27	29	32	34	36	38	41	45
11	18	21	25	27	31	34	37	40	43	46	49	52	55	61
12	24	28	32	36	40	44	48	52	56	60	64	68	72	80
13	30	35	41	45	51	55	61	66	71	76	81	95	91	101
14	38	44	50	56	63	69	75	81	99	94	100	106	113	125
15	45	53	61	68	76	83	91	98	106	113	121	128	136	151
16	54	63	72	81	90	99	108	117	126	135	144	153	162	180
17	63	74	85	95	106	116	127	137	148	158	169	179	190	211
18	73	85	98	110	123	135	147	159	172	183	196	208	221	245
19	85	98	113	127	141	155	169	183	197	211	225	239	253	281
20	96	112	128	144	160	176	192	208	224	240	256	272	288	320
21	108	126	145	162	181	199	217	235	253	271	289	306	325	361
22	121	142	162	182	203	223	243	263	284	303	324	344	365	405
23	135	156	181	203	226	248	271	293	316	336	361	383	406	451
24	150	175	200	225	250	275	300	325	350	375	400	425	450	500
25	165	193	221	248	276	303	331	358	386	413	441	468	496	551
26	181	212	242	272	303	334	363	393	424	458	484	514	545	605
27	198	231	265	297	331	363	397	430	463	496	529	561	595	661
28	216	252	288	324	360	396	432	468	504	540	576	612	648	720
29	235	273	313	352	391	430	469	508	547	586	625	664	703	781
30	253	295	338	380	423	465	507	549	592	633	676	718	761	845
31	273	319	365	410	456	502	547	592	638	683	729	774	820	911
32	294	343	392	441	490	539	588	637	686	735	784	838	882	980
33	315	368	421	473	526	578	631	684	736	789	841	898	946	1051
34	337	394	450	506	563	619	675	731	788	844	900	956	1013	1125
35	360	420	481	540	601	661	721	781	841	901	961	1020	1081	1201
36	384	448	512	576	640	704	768	832	896	960	1024	1088	1152	1280
37	408	476	545	613	681	749	817	884	953	1021	1089	1157	1225	1361
38	433	505	578	650	723	795	867	939	1012	1083	1156	1228	1301	1445
39	459	535	613	689	766	842	919	996	1072	1149	1225	1301	1378	1551
40	486	566	648	729	810	891	972	1053	1134	1215	1296	1377	1458	1620

Figure 6. Doyle Log Rule

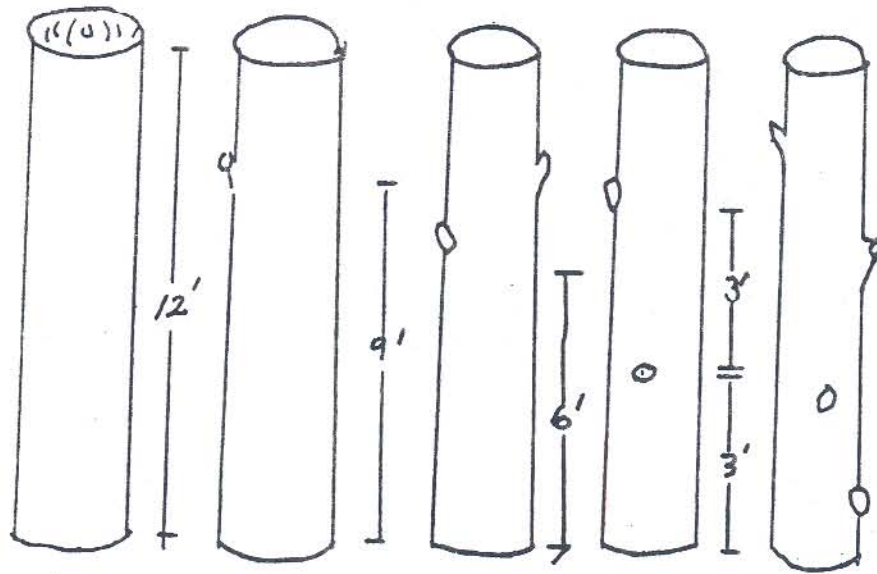
Purdue Saw Log Grades *

Prime: Practically (90 percent) surface clear on three visible faces. (A face is any one-quarter of the surface of a log.) Must be 16 inches or more in diameter inside bark at the small end.

No. 1: At least three-fourths (75 percent) of the log length on the three visible faces must be surface clear in one section. Must be at least 14 inches in diameter inside bark at the small end.

No. 2: At least one-half (50 percent) of the log length must be surface clear on the three visible faces in two sections, neither of which can be less than 3 feet long. Must be at least 10 inches in diameter inside bark at the small end.

No. 3: Will not meet No. 2 specifications.



Prime
16" or
larger
90% clear

No. 1
14" and
larger
75% clear

No. 2
10" in
Diameter
and larger
50% clear

No. 2

No. 3

* Log quality depends to a large degree on log size, and the number and location of surface defects. A detailed discussion of grading saw-logs is given in Agricultural Extension Bulletin #346, How to Grade Hardwood Sawlogs. This can be obtained from county agents or by writing to the Cooperative Extension Service at Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana.

Rev. 8-68-15C

Cooperative Extension Work in Agriculture and Home Economics, State of Indiana, Purdue University and U. S. Department of Agriculture Cooperating. H. G. Diesslin, Director, Lafayette, Ind. Issued in furtherance of the Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914.