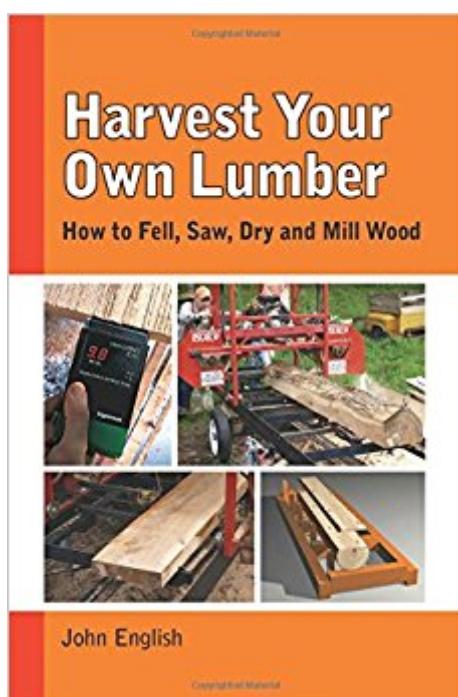


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# Harvest Your Own Lumber: How To Fell, Saw, Dry And Mill Wood



## Synopsis

In today's artisan, hands-on, and environmentally conscience landscape, there are many reasons to mill your own lumber: a craftsman, artist, or builder can gain access to a new species and unique cuts of wood; there's the Yankee in all of us that hates to see a healthy log simply go off to the landfill when it can offer new flooring or a piece of furniture; and, finally, there's symmetry in building something for a grandchild from the branch that held his daddy's tire-swing. And, let's not forget that wood is expensive; on top of all the other great reasons, harvesting your own timber will save you a few bucks. A concise guide for the small shop or enthusiastic hobbyist, *Harvest Your Own Lumber* covers all of the important steps in the conversion of wood. John English takes the reader through selecting the raw material to the final drying of the harvested timber. All of the steps in between are explained in clear text accompanied with photographs and charts that make the process of milling your own lumber a guaranteed success. The process of milling your own lumber is much more than just felling the tree and sawing it into useable boards. The first consideration is, of course, what type of tree will lend itself to producing good, useable timber. Once that decision has been made the sawyer must determine how to safely fell the tree and then how to convert the log into useable lumber. The author explains and illustrates the various choices available from what types of grain pattern to expect to the many defects to be aware of. Also included is an extensive chapter on chainsaws, safety, and felling. One of the most important aspects of timber harvesting is knowing how to "saw to grade." That is, how to get the best yield with the desired grain, from a specific log. *Harvest Your Own Lumber* provides the detail and instructions for sawing to grade as well as useful information on humidity and wood, kiln and air drying, various types of kilns and milling rough boards to get them flat and straight. This is a valuable handbook for any woodworker, builder, carpenter, or craftsman that relies on good quality wood.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Harvest Your Own Lumber holds appeal for hobbyists, woodworkers, and crafters who would take better control of not just their landscapes, but their supply sources .... highly recommended for any home hobbyist who regularly uses wood and wants to take a more active role in its quality and availability." *Recommended Reading-Donovan's Bookshelf*"Well organized and written ... explains all the steps involved in lumber harvesting with clarity and a dash of humour."

*Carl Duguay, Canadian Woodworking & Home Improvement Magazine*"Impressively user friendly from first page to last, Harvest Your Own Lumber is an ideal and comprehensive instruction guide that will enable even the most novice woodworker to identify the best trees to harvest ... and convert it into usable logs. Very highly recommended for personal, community, and academic library woodworking instructional reference collections." *Midwest Book Review*

John English is a cabinetmaker, a teacher, and the author of "How to Choose and Use Bench Planes and Scrapers," "The Woodworker's Guide to Sharpening," and many articles published in "Woodshop News" and "Woodworker's Business News." He is the former editor of "Today's Woodworker" and "Woodworker's Journal." Currently he designs and builds projects for "American Woodworker" magazine and runs the Black Hills School of Woodworking. He lives in Spearfish, South Dakota.

This book is a nice overview of the subject title. Not very in-depth but then it's not intended to be. There is some very useful information on the sawmill and lumber industry that should be very useful to someone considering purchasing a portable sawmill or hiring one. If you are looking for chainsaw and felling techniques keep looking as this book gives about as much information on that as is included in your saw's owners manual.

Great book! I have learned so much, not just about cutting lumber, but also about the types of wood there are. Great read for anyone looking to build a house.

Loved it. Some of the info was unnecessary for me as I work in the tree care industry, and so, already know how to use a chainsaw. But even that info is worth reading again, and especially if one is unfamiliar with that aspect of things.

This book is a great survey of the tools used by others who fell, saw, dry, and mill their own lumber. I found it to be informative, and full of good background info, but it lacked depth in areas that would help me get started. For example, the chapter on drying lumber ends not with any techniques to dry that log from the arborist who just left your yard but a reference to purchasing plans to build your own backyard kiln and the exotic process it uses. Most people start with one tree, and for some reason they decide they want to "make it into lumber" without spending \$3000. This book wont help much.5 stars for writing, editing and interest, 2 stars overall for failure to deliver on the promise made by the subtitle

Really appreciate the in-depth information this book provides, will be GREAT with our chainsaw mill. Thanks!

Informative

Nothing earth shaking, just good info. But you can find the same, and better information on discussion forums. The book is organized (forums are not)

good book

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