

## Grading Procedures Regarding Branch Size

Field Guide:	Section:	5.0 Page:	Contact:	Original Posting:	Last Modified:
4.0, 5.0	App. E	308-315	James Blehm	11/08/10	N/A

### **ISSUE**

A question arose during a recent Certification test on how to measure the diameter of a branch for grading purposes. It was asked if the measurement should be the diameter of the branch or is the branch collar included in the measurement. The verbiage for Hardwood Construction Grade 4 seems to lead to the fact that we use the diameter of the branch collar. However, this is **NOT** the direction we want to go. Upon further investigation into the original documents that were used to create the grading cards, it was determined that branch diameter is the more accurate way to measure the impact of a branch.

### **RESOLUTION**

Branch diameter must be considered when determining TREE GRADE for both Hardwood and Softwood.

- When evaluating if a tree meets TREE GRADE 4 for hardwoods, evaluate each individual branch diameter. Then determine if it exceeds  $\frac{1}{3}$  the diameter of the bole at the point of occurrence. Also take into consideration if there are any whorled branches present within the same plane where the combined diameters will exceed  $\frac{1}{3}$  the diameter of the bole at the point of occurrence.
- When evaluating TREE GRADE for softwood species, if branch diameter is one of the determining factors for grade, evaluate each individual branch diameter and apply the specific rules associated with the species.

### **RECOMMENDED TEXT FOR NEXT MANUAL**

Add NRS Notes to indicate that branch diameter is used when measuring branch size for TREE GRADE.