



# Macon County Big Tree Search

Have a tree in mind? Fill out the requirements for submission below and a representative from Macon County Conservation District will come and check out your findings. The largest tree of each species nominated will be placed on the Official Register of Macon County Big Tree Champions and if eligible, forwarded for consideration in State and National competitions.

In order to qualify for submission your tree must have a **permanent woody stem** that is at least **9 1/2 inches** in **circumference** (distance around the outside of the trunk) at a point 4 1/2 feet off the ground, a **distinct crown of foliage** (leaves), and **height** of at least **13 feet**.

Submissions are due by **August 1<sup>st</sup>** of each year. Champions will be announced the following April. Submissions received after August 1<sup>st</sup> will be held and processed the next year.

## -----Official Nominating Form-----

**(One tree per form-photocopy this portion as needed)**

Please fill in as completely as possible and return to:  
Mail: Macon County Conservation District 3939 Nearing Lane, Decatur IL 62521  
Email: [mccd@maconcountyconservation.org](mailto:mccd@maconcountyconservation.org) (subject line "Big Tree Search")

Tree Species (Common Name OK): \_\_\_\_\_

Location of Tree: Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_-OR- Township: \_\_\_\_\_ Range: \_\_\_\_\_ S: \_\_\_\_\_ 1/4 \_\_\_\_\_ 1/4 \_\_\_\_\_

Other information to aid in tree location (directions, landmarks, GPS, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (Attach map if necessary)

Name of Nominator: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Tree Owner (if different): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Historical data (when planted, by whom, etc) and other remarks: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Office Use Only

|               |       |    |       |    |             |
|---------------|-------|----|-------|----|-------------|
| C             | _____ | D  | _____ | By | _____       |
| S             | _____ | C  | _____ | ft | ( _____ in) |
| TP            | _____ | SP | _____ | H  | _____       |
|               |       | NP | _____ | W  | _____       |
| GPS (dec deg) | _____ |    |       |    | Pic _____   |

**TREE MEASUREMENTS-TO BE COMPLETED BY NOMINATOR** (see reverse for information on measurement)

Date Measured: \_\_\_\_\_ By Whom: \_\_\_\_\_

Circumference: \_\_\_\_\_ ft., \_\_\_\_\_ in. Measured at:  4 1/2 feet above ground  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Height: \_\_\_\_\_ ft. Avg. Crown Width \_\_\_\_\_ ft. Pictures included? \_\_\_\_\_ \*

\*Pictures are very helpful in determining eligibility/location and are highly recommended. They can be mailed with the form or attached in an email to the above address.

## HOW TO MEASURE A TREE FOR THE BIG TREE SEARCH

To measure your tree you will need a tape measure and something to mark locations on the ground. It also helps to have a partner to assist.

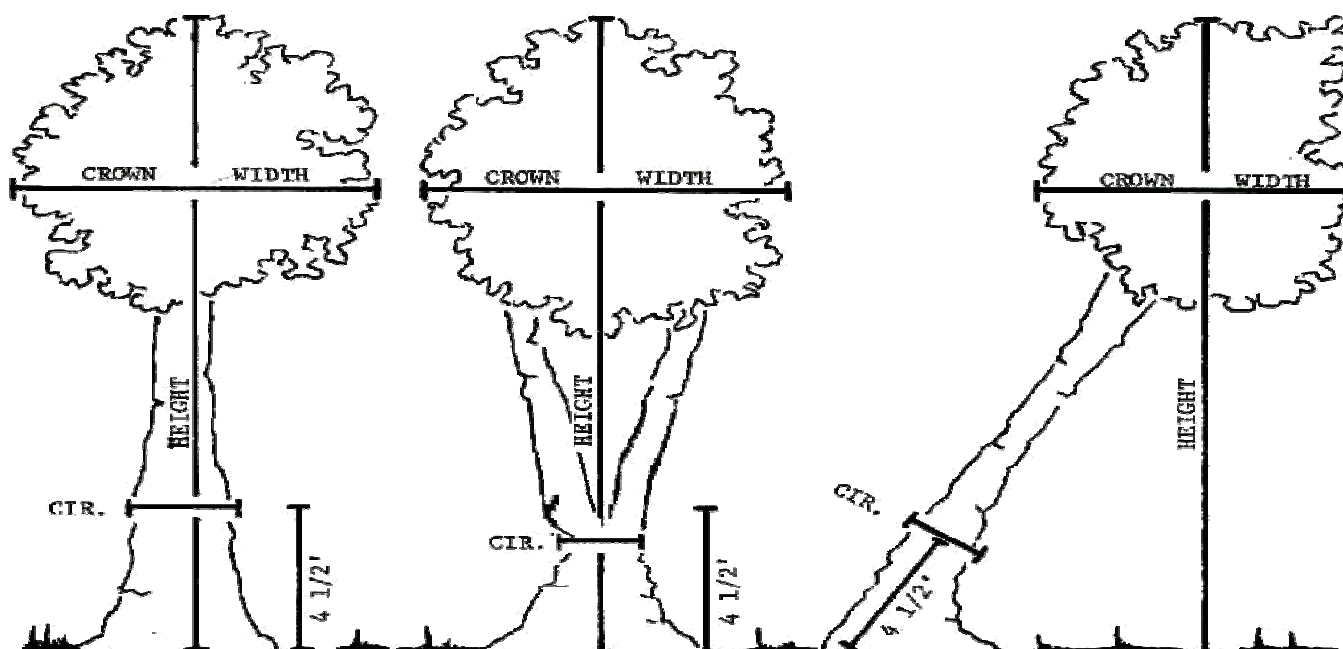


Figure 1

**CIRCUMFERENCE** of the tree is the distance around the trunk. It is measured to the nearest inch. Wrap a tape measure around the trunk at a point 4 ½ feet above the ground (Figure 2). If a branch is located at this point, or the tree forks below it (Figure 3), measure at the nearest possible point *below* the branch/fork and make a note of this height.

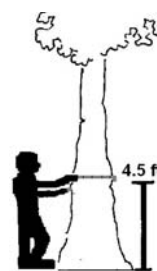


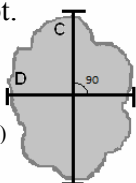
Figure 2



Figure 3

The **HEIGHT** is the vertical distance from the ground to the highest part of the tree. If the tree leans, its topmost branches may not be vertically over the base of the tree (Figure 1, above). Please give your best estimate to the nearest foot.

Figure 4  
(View from above)



Average **CROWN WIDTH** can be outlined for measurement on the ground by placing markers on the ground directly below the outermost leaves. First measure the crown width where it is widest (**C**), then at a 90° angle to that line (**D**) (Figure 4). The average of these two widths is the average crown width (**W**):  $\frac{C + D}{2} = W$  Round to the nearest foot.

Once we have your measurements, we will assign your tree a point value using the formula provided by the American Forestry Association's National Register of Big Trees. The total circumference in inches is added to the total height in feet, plus one-quarter of the average crown width measured in feet. This gives a single number representing overall size, with circumference (**C<sub>in</sub>**) as the major factor (weighted by measurement in inches), followed by height (**H<sub>ft</sub>**) in feet and one-quarter the crown width (**W<sub>ft</sub>**) in feet.

$$C_{in} + H_{ft} + \frac{1}{4}W_{ft} = \text{Total Points}$$

*For example:* The largest tree of any species in Macon County is Silver Maple—with a total of 339 points! The distance around its trunk is 18 feet 10 inches (or 226 inches), it is 91 feet tall, and has a crown width of 87 feet.

$$226 + 91 + \frac{1}{4}(87) = 339$$

For more information on measurement or national/state programs:

National Big Tree Registry: <http://www.americanforests.org/resources/bigtrees/>

Illinois Big Tree Register: [http://web.extension.illinois.edu/forestry/il\\_big\\_tree.html](http://web.extension.illinois.edu/forestry/il_big_tree.html)