How to Measure the Diameter of a Tree



Diameter at standard height (DSH), is a common method used for measuring trees. DSH refers to a tree’s diameter measured at 4.5 feet (54 inches) above the ground. Using a string, a measuring tape, a thumb tack, and a calculator, the diameter of a tree can easily be calculated by completing the following steps:

1. With the measuring tape, measure 4.5 feet up the trunk of the tree from the ground. Use a thumb tack to mark the height on the tree.
2. Wrap your string around the tree trunk at 4.5 feet. Make sure the string is straight and tight around the trunk, and mark or cut the circumference on the string.
3. Measure the length of string to get the circumference of the tree.
4. Convert the circumference measurement to diameter by dividing the circumference by pi (3.14). The total is the tree’s DSH.