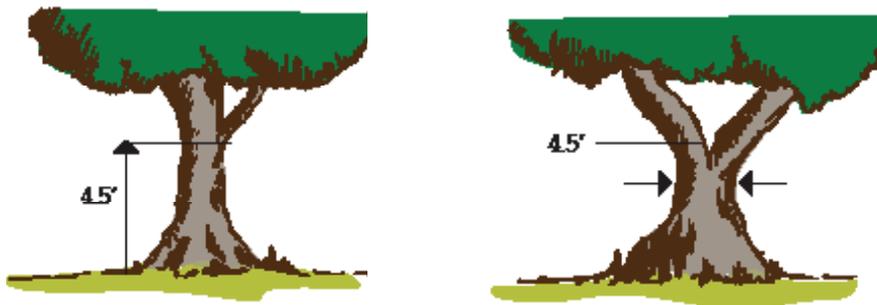


Giants of the Forest

Big trees fascinate people and catch their attention. At first sight, they are often amazed at their size and beauty. They help spur the imagination of how the tree got there, what it has witnessed, and why did this particular tree live so long. Big trees are a minority in any forest and they grace our landscape with nobility.

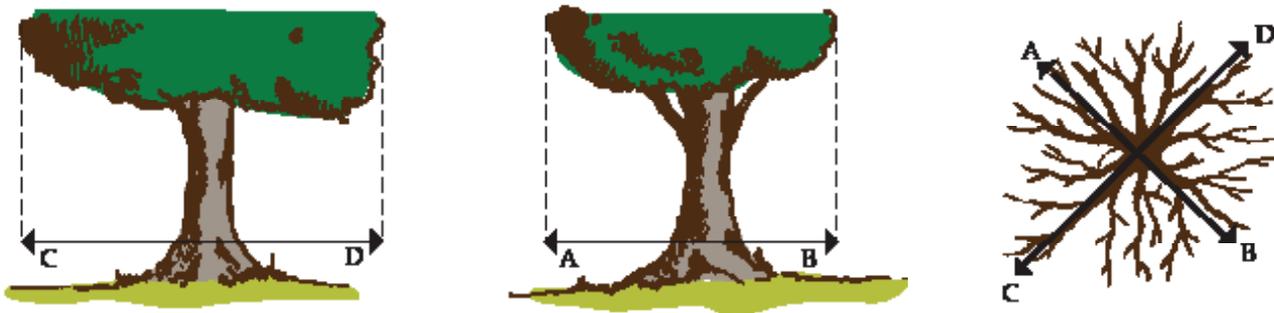
Go outside and find the biggest tree in your neighborhood, schoolyard or community. Identify the type of tree it is and then measure it using these instructions:

- **Circumference** (distance around the tree trunk in inches), usually taken 4.5 feet above the ground. Root swell or very low branches may require adjustment. Circumference = _____ inches



- **Height** in feet from ground to highest branch. There are many ways to measure the height of a tree. One of the easier methods is to use a metal tape measure laid out on the ground near the tree or up against the tree to show either 10 or 20 feet as a reference. Then, using thumb and index finger at arm's length, one can transfer that known measure up the tree. Just add up the number of lengths times either 10 or 20 feet. Height = _____ feet

- **Crown Spread:** Extend outer crown edge down to ground and measure longest and shortest diameter. Average these. Crown Spread = _____ feet



Giants of the Forest (continued)

Once you have these measurements, calculate the tree's total points by using this formula:

| | | |
|--------------------------------|---------|--------|
| Trunk circumference in inches: | _____ | inches |
| + Height in feet: | + _____ | feet |
| + ¼ the crown spread in feet: | + _____ | feet |
| = Total points: | = _____ | points |

Compare your tree to Vermont Big Tree List:

Go to the Dept. of Forests, Parks & Recreation Website: fpr.vermont.gov/forest/vermonts_forests/big_trees

Click on 'Vermont's Current List'

Search for the common name of the tree you measured

Complete the information below

| Type of Tree: | | |
|------------------|-----------|------------------------|
| | Your Tree | Vermont's Biggest Tree |
| Location (town): | | |
| Circumference: | | |
| Height: | | |
| Crown spread: | | |
| Total points: | | |

If you have a tree that you think is a state champion, fill out our online form at: fpr.vermont.gov/forest/vermonts_forests/big_trees/big_tree_form or contact your county forester.