



How to salvage fallen trees after Hurricane Maria

How can we benefit from this valuable resource ?

Hurricanes Irma and Maria have left thousands of fallen trees in our streets, yards, farms, and forests. One of the most important tasks after a hurricane is to clear the streets and remove downed trees. However, this also presents an opportunity to take advantage of the high economic value that can be recovered by salvaging the tropical wood of our downed trees.

What can you do?

- Evaluate the type of wood, size and condition of the tree to determine whether it is worth saving.
- Contact resources that can orient you with respect to:
 - ✓ The value of the wood and options for selling it;
 - ✓ The best ways to remove, store, and cut the wood;
 - ✓ The availability of artisans, sawmills, and collection centers or people who can receive the wood.
- Take steps to cut and store downed trees in ways that preserve the maximum economic value of the wood.



Which trees have economic value?

Trunks measuring more than 12 inches in diameter and 12 feet long are the most valuable. If the trunk must be cut, recommended lengths are 8' and 4'. Trunks less than 4' long are useful to artisans. Most species have economic value. Some examples of valuable trees are:

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| Acacia (<i>Albizia spp.</i>) | Four-leaf buchenavia, Granadillo (<i>Buchenavia capitata</i>) |
| Almond, Almendro (<i>Terminalia catappa</i>) | American muskwood, Guaraguao (<i>Guarea guidonia</i>) |
| Bulletwood, Ausubo (<i>Manilkara bidentata</i>) | Mango (<i>Mangifera indica</i>) |
| Stinking toe, Algarrobo (<i>Hymenaea courbaril</i>) | Cabbagebark tree, Moca (<i>Andira inermis</i>) |
| Mahogany, Caoba (<i>Swietenia spp.</i>) | Antilles calophyllum, María (<i>Calophyllum calaba</i>) |
| Spanish elm, Capa Prieto (<i>Cordia alliodora</i>) | Doncella, Maricao (<i>Byrsonima spicata</i>) |
| White cogwood, Caracolillo (<i>Homalium racemosum</i>) | White cedar, Roble (<i>Tabebuia heterophylla</i>) |
| Spanish cedar, Cedro hembra (<i>Cedrela odorata</i>) | Pine, Pino (<i>Pinus caribaea</i>) |
| Eucalyptus, Eucalipto (<i>Eucalyptus robusta</i>) | Gregorywood, Úcar (<i>Bucida buceras</i>). |



How to proceed?

It is important to identify and store the tree trunks so that they maintain value and are not taken to a landfill or chipper. Contact collection centers, artisans and sawmills, or let us know if you have trees to salvage.

If you are clearing and removing woody debris, you should cut trunks into lengths of 4, 8 or 12 feet and store them in a dry area or off of the ground. If you have milling capabilities trunks may be squared to remove the bark and outer wood where moisture, insects and fungi can damage the trunk and reduce the value. Wood may be stored in these conditions for a long time, under a roof and with space for air between timbers.

For more information contact:

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Local Sawmills

*Be sure to call before visiting a sawmill to confirm that it is accepting downed trees. If you own a sawmill and would like to be part of this list please contact us.

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For more information about Puerto Rico Hardwoods contact: andres@prhardwoods.com, Patillas, (787) 308-4588

The [USDA Caribbean Climate Hub](http://www.usda.gov/caribbeanclimatehub) is located in San Juan, Puerto Rico and seeks to develop and provide scientific information, practical tools and greater capacity to the agricultural and forestry community of Puerto and the U.S. Virgin Islands to build resilience to climate change. We support the revival of agriculture and silviculture in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands after Hurricanes Irma and Maria. For more information visit:

Webpage: <https://caribbeanclimatehub.org/>; Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CaribeHub/>; Twitter: <https://twitter.com/CaribeHub>; YouTube-
<http://www.youtube.com/c/CaribbeanClimateHub>

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