



Vasievich, J. Michael; Kingsley, Neal P. 1995. **Where are the walnut trees? [in Minnesota]**. Walnut Council Bulletin. 22(2): 3.

Where are the walnut trees?

J. Michael Vasievich and Neal P. Kingsley¹

The forests of each state are inventoried by the USDA-Forest Service and the state's forestry agency on a periodic basis. In the Midwest, the North Central Forest Experiment Station coordinates the inventory. The job takes a long time-- sometimes several years from start to

¹ The authors are project leaders of forest economics research and of forest inventory and analysis, North Central Forest Experiment Station, USDA-Forest Service, East Lansing, MI, and St. Paul, MN, respectively.

finish -- because lots of trees are measured on lots of plots. For example, during the last inventory of Minnesota, dated 1990, more than 12,000 forest plots were measured throughout the state. The job required finding and measuring more than 376,000 trees.

With modern data bases and mapping software, it's easy for us to produce maps like the one shown above. The forest inventory plot and tree measurement records, in data base form, provide the information needed to map many forest characteristics of interest. We've decided to produce a series of walnut distribution maps for the Walnut Council Bulletin because members are interested in knowing where the trees are. We started out with Minnesota and will focus on the other North Central states in the next several issues of the Bulletin.

The dots on the Minnesota map show the approximate locations of all plots measured in the 1990 inventory where one or more walnut trees were found. Some of the walnut trees were small, less than 2 inches DBH. Others were big, more than 25 inches DBH. In some cases, many walnut trees were found, in others, only one on a plot. When expanded to account for the area represented by each plot and the number of trees represented by each measured tree, the estimates show that there are as many as 630,000 walnut trees greater than 9 inches DBH throughout Minnesota! The dots on the map, of course, don't show all the places where walnut trees grow. Forest survey plots don't tally walnut trees growing in fence rows or out in open fields. But the dots do show the places where walnut was found by the forest survey crews. We know others may be there, but we haven't caught them with our diameter tapes yet. Maybe they'll make it into the sample next time around.

For more information on forest inventory in your state, contact your State Forester or the Forest Inventory and Analysis Unit, North Central Forest Experiment Station, 1992 Folwell Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55108. To find out where walnut trees are located in your state, watch future issues of the Bulletin.