

The age of a tree is roughly calculated by using a measure of the tree trunk's size. As most trees in temperate climates add two new layers of bark to the outside of their trunk every year (a thin layer in Spring/Summer and a thicker layer in Autumn/Winter), the larger the circumference of the tree, the older it will be.

Gaining a precise measure of a tree's age is unlikely using accessible fieldwork techniques. Changes in climate and tree health can affect the thickness of bark that is added to the trunk each year. It is therefore highly likely that two trees of the same species and of the same age may present themselves with differences in their trunk circumferences.

Measurements of the circumference of the tree trunk should be done somewhere between 1.5m to 2m from where the tree is rooted in the ground.

The tape measure should be pass freely around the trunk with no obstruction from branches, stems or knots.

Most trees will grow at a rate that adds 25mm to their circumference every year. Therefore dividing the circumference one has measured (in cm) by 2.5 will give one a figure that is roughly close to the age of the tree in years.

