



NOW IS A GOOD TIME TO FIND/ COLLECT TIMBER

By Peter Charlton

Shedders, particularly those who are wood turners or are potential/aspiring wood turners should be aware that winter is a very good time to collect pieces of wood for turning, particularly wood from deciduous trees.

This is because in winter the sap flow diminishes and your collected wood will dry more quickly than wood collected at other times of the year. This means it will be suitable for turning much sooner.

A deciduous tree is one that loses all of its leaves for part of the year, and among those the species that have pretty and easy wood to turn include Ash, Elm, Oak, Jacaranda and just about any fruit tree.

Many types of trees shed their leaves as a strategy to survive harsh weather conditions, most deciduous trees have broad leaves that are susceptible to being damaged in cold or dry weather. Shedding leaves helps trees to conserve water and energy.

As to the size of log, the bigger the better in terms of trophy/prize winning pieces, but large pieces take longer to dry than smaller pieces.

Anything over 150mm diameter is a good start and if you get a choice, a piece that includes a fork ('Y' shaped piece) can be lovely, where each of the three arms of the fork are about 1.5 to 2 times (in length) the diameter.

Why not keep your eyes open and see what you can collect; listen for the sound of a chainsaw and run outside before it is fed into the chipper and lost forever.

There is always a little bit of room in your garage to store a few pieces?

As a cautionary note, gum trees do not provide the sort of wood that beginners are likely to be happy with.