

## THE BEST TIME TO CUT TIMBER

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The best time for cutting Timber is "in the dark of the moon," and the very best time is in the dark of the moon in the month of August. An Ontario farmer, who had ample opportunity for making experiments, proved, to his own satisfaction and that of many others, that timber felled during the aforesaid time never becomes affected by insects or worms; nor does it become brittle in seasoning; but, on the contrary, remains tough, and appears somewhat oily. The sap of trees ascends with every increase of the moon, and descends with every decrease of the moon; and at its full and at its dark, it will neither ascend nor descend, but will spread in a circular form. There is no doubt but that the moon has the same effect on all vegetation; but he never tested or experimented on any but standing trees. The proper time, or season, for testing or experimenting on this matter is during the month above mentioned (August), when any person disposed to test the theory for themselves can do so. The following is the way he gained his knowledge of the matter:—About fifty years ago, he and his brother cleared an addition to their then improvement; and as timber for firewood had become an object, they left quite a number of small oaks standing; but, to make the best of them, they peeled or stripped the bark off them, upward, as convenient, for tanning purposes, in the month of June, when it peeled readily. There was then, as there always is at that season of the year, a new wood, or soft substance, forming between the bark and the hard-wood, through which the sap flowed or passed rapidly, but with greater force in its ascent than in its descent: and, marring this soft substance, it received a bluish color from the axe. Sometimes he threw dust or spit tobacco-juice on it: in either case it absorbed coloring enough to see very distinctly which way, up or down according to the time of the moon, the sap was passing. Since then, he removed to another farm, also covered with timber, and for many years chopped a new field each spring; and at the time the bark peeled he would frequently strip off a piece of bark from a standing tree of any kind (some, however, peeled more readily than others), without cutting into the tree or too much marring the new soft-wood forming; and he always found that the sap ascended or descended, invariably, with the increase or decrease of the moon. During the month of August, if he required timber for rails, stakes, posts, or building purposes, he would send a man or two to fell such trees as might be required, at the proper time of the moon, and then would sometimes, to suit his own convenience, let them lay for several years before working them up; even then, he would find the green bark inside of the dead or dry bark still green, though somewhat dried; but, *in no case did he ever find insects or worms inside of the bark.*