

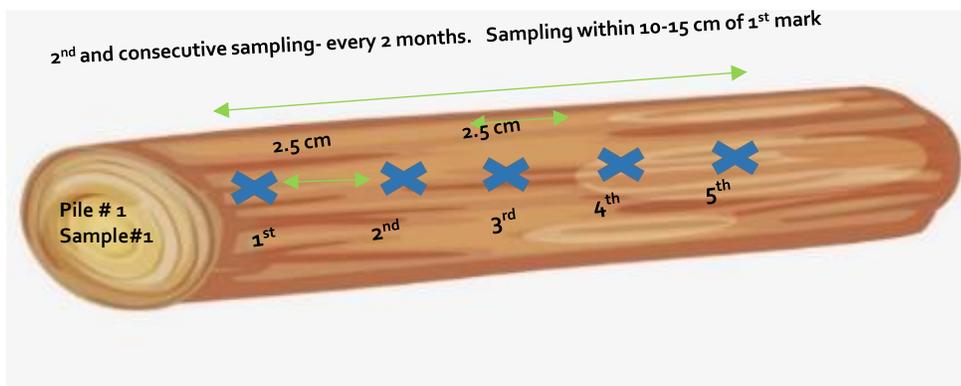
## Instructions

All woody material shall be allowed to **DRY** for at least **two years** or alternatively have a **moisture content less than 30%**. The recommended maximum pile size is **3m width X 3m Length and 2m Height**. **Construct the piles in a way to maximize the air flow.**

Properly dry wood is lighter, has cracks in the grain on the end, and sounds hollow when knocked against another piece of wood. Follow the next steps to measure the moisture content of a pile:

1. Get a moisture meter, cost varies (\$20 - \$110); spray paint, permanent markers and color-string.
2. On the first site visit, choose a minimum of ten pieces from **each pile** (from surface, middle and bottom of the pile).
3. Number the piles and mark each sample piece with spray paint (X). Tie a color-string for easier identification.
4. Insert the handheld device and record the date and moisture content of each sample. Use the record worksheet to track moisture content of each pile over time.
5. On subsequent visits (every 2 months), the probes of the handheld device should be inserted about 2.5 cm from the previous insertion point. All the measurements should be taken within 12 to 15 cm of 1<sup>st</sup> spray-painted mark. Set a 2-months reminder in your calendar!

If debris are **piled late winter or early spring**, more likely they **should be ready to be burned after 8-10 months**. Until the **NEXT** burning season! Burning during rainy season or winter should be avoided, as the moisture content will rise again.



Record of wood pile moisture content  
Moisture content of the wood should be under 30%