

# Tree Cross Sections

1.  
The study of tree rings is called dendrochronology. Each year, a tree adds a spring and summer ring, a light colored ring in the spring and a dark colored ring in the summer.

The rings can tell dendrochronologists about the growth of that tree. Narrow rings could mean slower growth, possibly from not enough water, sunlight, space or nutrients.



2.  
This tree shows scars where branches have died or fallen off and the tree has grown around and over them.



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3.  
Wide rings could mean the available water, sunlight, space or nutrients allowed the tree to grow vigorously.

Narrower rings toward the outer edge could mean that the younger trees are starting to crowd each other.



4.  
This tree shows the difference in color of the heartwood and sapwood.

Blue stain fungus is also evident in the sapwood. The fungus is carried by bark beetles and quickens the tree's death after attack by the beetles.

