**FIREWOOD**

**HARDWOODS** vs. **SOFTWOODS**

1. It is difficult to dent a hardwood with your nail.

2. Freshly cut hardwood logs will often have a wet wood scent.

3. Seasoned hardwood usually lacks any detectable scent except perhaps that of mold.

   - **WHAT YOU'LL SEE**
   - **HARDWOODS**
     - Pores
     - A clean cut with a sharp blade reveals ring structure
   - **SOFTWOODS**
     - No pores
     - Resin canal not a pore!

   - **Use a hand lens**

   - **Pores magnified**

   - **H.D. Grissino-Mayer (with permission)**

To be absolutely sure that you have identified the firewood as either a hard or softwood you must make a cross-section cut (known as a transverse cut) across the growth rings and look closely at the rings with a hand lens.

1. It is easy to dent a softwood with your nail.

2. Freshly cut softwoods will often have a "piney" scent due to the resin content.

3. Seasoned softwood can sometimes be freshly wounded or scraped to release a "piney" scent.

**USDA PPQ Seattle Plant Inspection Station**

Compiled by G.A. van de Kerckhove

**HARDWOODS HAVE PORES**

**SOFTWARES DO NOT HAVE PORES**