

Wood Species Guide

Welcome to our Wood Species Guide. Presented to the left is the variety of hardwoods we use to make your furniture. Each species has its own set of special characteristics. Please take a moment and learn about where our wood comes from.



CHERRY



MAPLE



OAK



WALNUT



RECLAIMED
CHESTNUT



RECLAIMED
WHITE PINE



Cherry



Maple



Oak



Walnut



Chestnut



White Pine

FACT: Hardwoods are naturally abundant and entirely self-sustaining. Harvesting one tree allows many others to grow in its place.



CHERRY *Prunus serotina*



MAPLE



OAK



WALNUT



RECLAIMED CHESTNUT

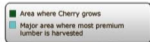


RECLAIMED WHITE PINE

Cherry is the most commonly known hardwood native to America. Its heartwood ranges from a light reddish brown to a deep rich red color, while the sapwood ranges from a creamy white to a light reddish brown. The wood color darkens with time and to the exposure of light, with or without a finish. It is fine grained, often with a wavy figure. It is not unusual to have natural brown pith flecks and small gum pockets. Cherry is the most commercially used native species of tree.

Habitat

Cherry grows in a variety of places extending from Southeastern Canada through the East Coast and much of Midwest in America. It can also be found in places like British Columbia, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas. It can even be found in the mountains of Mexico and Guatemala.



Physical Properties

Cherry is a medium density wood that is moderately hard and heavy, strong, and stiff. After it is kiln-dried, the wood is dimensionally stable, which yields a high shock resistance.

Working Properties

Cherry is an excellent all around wood. It can be easily machined and planed to smooth, clean surfaces. Its qualities produce clean sawing, turning, drilling and sanding. It is excellent for mouldings, mortising and other millwork. It accepts stains and all types of finishes without issue. It has good glue, nail and screw strength qualities.



Main Uses

Furniture, cabinets, flooring, veneer, paneling, mouldings, turnings, carvings, musical instruments, high-class joinery, boat interiors, interior finishing, woodenware, medical instruments, tobacco pipes, handles, novelties and plywood.

Trivia

- Early settlers would add the fruit as a flavoring to their rum or brandy, making a drink called cherry bounce.
- Since the 1400s, Cherry has been used by printmakers to back their engraving blocks for electrotypes and zinc etchings.



MAPLE Acer saccharum, Acer nigrum



CHERRY



OAK



WALNUT



RECLAIMED CHESTNUT



RECLAIMED WHITE PINE

Maple is characteristically known for its light cream white color of the heartwood and sapwood. The heartwood can also range to a reddish or grayish brown. It has a dense closed grain with fine, uniform texture; these properties are what give the hard maple its name. Figured grains such as birdseye and curly, or flamed, patterns can be found. Hard maple is vital member of the ecology of many forests across North America. It is the second most commercially used native hardwood.

Habitat

Hard Maple grows across southeastern Canada, eastern and parts of central United States. While it tends to grow in mixed hardwood forests with moist, well-drained soil, it can also be found in wetter, drier and rockier soil conditions. It is acclimated for colder weather and often favors a northerly climate.

■ Area where Maple grows
■ Major area where most premium lumber is harvested



Physical Properties

Maple is a close grained, high density wood that is hard and heavy. It has medium stiffness but high crushing strength. The high density yields an extremely tough material with great wear and shock resistance. It dries slowly with a large shrinkage.

Working Properties

Hard Maple is more difficult to work with than other hardwoods. The hardness does aid to its exemplary finished product quality. It is tough on tools, causing dulling on all cutting, drilling and routing tools. Pre-drilling is a requirement for nailing and screwing. Care must be taken during sanding and finishing, burn marks and other variations stand out more clearly than on other woods. It is good for planing sanding, cutting, drilling, machining, gluing and finishing.



Main Uses

Furniture, flooring, cabinets, veneer, musical instruments, woodenware and interior joinery: stairs, handrails, mouldings, doors and decorative woodwork. Other uses include pool cues, skateboards, bowling pins, firewood, pulp, canoe paddles and toys. Surfaces in gymnasiums, bowling alleys and dance floors are often made of Maple.

Trivia

- The Sugar Maple is the best source for pure maple syrup. The high sugar content sap is boiled down into concentrated forms of syrup and sugar. It can take up to 30 gallons of sap to make a single gallon of syrup. In one year,



OAK

Quercus rubra



CHERRY



MAPLE



WALNUT



RECLAIMED CHESTNUT



RECLAIMED WHITE PINE

Red Oak is a group of species of Oak with light reddish heartwood. The sapwood color ranges from white to light brown. Visually similar to White Oak, Red Oak has a less prominent open grain pattern; however, it grows more abundant. It is generally straight grained with a coarse texture.

Red Oaks are often classified into two sub-groups: Northern and Southern. A Northern Red Oak is tight grained, a small ratio of sapwood to heartwood, and a light heartwood color variation. A Southern Red Oak offers a large average board size, a wide grain, a close ratio of sapwood and heartwood. It also grows more rapidly than northerly brother, and tends to be harder and heavier.

Habitat

Red Oak is the most abundant species group growing in the hardwood forests of the Eastern US. Of these species, eight varieties are viable sources for lumber. It is a native of North America, stretching from southeastern Canada to northeastern and parts of northern-central United States. It is the only native oak that grows as far as Nova Scotia. It prefers rich, slightly acidic, well-drained soil conditions but has an adaptability to grow in a wide variety of other conditions.

- Area where Oak grows
- Major area where most premium lumber is harvested



Physical Properties

Red Oak is a high density wood that is hard, heavy and strong, which yields a great wear-resistance and a high shock resistance. Due to the tannins in the wood, it resists fungi and insects. It is very susceptible to moisture absorption. It is dimensionally stable after a slow kiln-drying process.

Working Properties

Red Oak has good machining qualities, and is good for nailing and screwing; pre-drilled holes are recommended. It has good qualities for sawing, boring, carving, turning and gluing. It has excellent qualities for planing, drilling, moulding and finishing. Care should be taken to dry slowly due to high shrinkage and its tendency to split and warp.



Main Uses

The oaks have been key in America's industrial transformation: railroad ties, wheels, plows, looms, barrels, mining timbers and, of course, furniture and flooring. It is also used for doors, kitchen cabinets, paneling, architectural interiors, veneer, ship building, truck and trailer beds, coffins and caskets.

Trivia

- In Latin, the name for oak is Quercus, which means "a fine tree."
- The bark and leaves contain tannin, a substance that delays decomposition. This substance made the bark more valuable than the wood, when tanning hides was in high demand.

WALNUT *Juglans nigra*

CHERRY

MAPLE

OAK

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CHESTNUT

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WHITE PINE

Walnut is recognized for its rich dark brown color. The heartwood color can range anywhere from a light brown to a purplish black. The creamy white sapwood contrasts against the dark heartwood and can be up to 3 inches in width. The grain is generally straight, while wavy or curly figure is often a common find. Walnut can be found with a wide variety of figure types. Contrary to popular belief, walnut is not a rare species. There are limitations to where it can grow, but the supply is abundant enough for commercial use. In the past, it was heavily harvested for homes, barns and fences. Due to the limitations of where it can be grown, walnut commands a higher price point.

Habitat

Walnut grows in varied places across the midwest, central and eastern North America. It can also be found in patches in Utah, California and Oregon. Native to the USA, the walnut was introduced to Europe in 1629 for the cultivation of its fruit. Walnuts like to grow in moist, well drained areas with fertile soil. It is often found by itself or in a hardwood forest of other species. Hand-planted groves of walnut trees are grown for the harvest of nut, and occasionally lumber.

■ Area where Walnut grows
■ Major area where most premium lumber is harvested



Physical Properties

Walnut is a medium density wood that is hard, heavy and strong, which yields a high shock resistance. It is naturally oily and dries very slowly. It is very dimensionally stable, even before kiln-drying.

Working Properties

Walnut is easy to work with both hand and power tools. Its qualities support clean planing, turning, shaping, routing and sanding. It is resistant to splitting, which makes it good for steam bending. It has good glue, nail and screw strength qualities. It is very accepting to paint, stain and other finishes, and can be polished to a high sheen.



Main Uses

Furniture, cabinets, flooring, architectural millwork, veneer, paneling, high-class joinery, turnings, carvings, musical instruments, boat building, clock cases and novelties. It is frequently used for inlay and material highlight in contrast to other woods. It is specifically used for gunstocks due to its inherent nature to hold its shape well.

Trivia

- Walnut trees secrete an aspirin compound when under stress, which can be detected by nearby plants to warn them of impending danger, such as a drought.
- Walnut trees have a deep taproot system that makes them highly resistant to drought.



RECLAIMED CHESTNUT

Castana dentata



CHERRY



MAPLE



OAK



WALNUT



RECLAIMED
WHITE PINE

The American Chestnut was once a staple of rural American living. It is still known as one of the most rapid growing hardwoods. Unfortunately, these trees are not able to live very long due to the chestnut blight, a fatal fungal disease brought over from Asia circa 1904. American Chestnut trees are very rare but are not extinct. This being the case, the only lumber available is reclaimed from old buildings.

The heartwood ranges from a brown to gray-brown. Due to its rapid growth, there is little sapwood, which is whitish in color. It is part of the Oak family and is often mistaken for Oak when reclaimed.

Habitat

American Chestnut natively grows across the extents of Appalachian Range, stretching from Maine to Mississippi and north to the Lake Erie region. It tends to prefer rich, well-drained soils but due to its deep tap root system, it can grow rocky, dry soils as well. They once occupied forests, meadows and pastures in great numbers.

■ Area where Chestnut grows
■ Major area where most premium lumber is harvested



Physical Properties

American Chestnut is straight grained and rich in tannins. It is light and soft, yet it is strong and durable. Due to the tannins, it has a high resistance to rot, insects, and most fungi; the blight unfortunately not one of them. It has a slow drying time and is prone to cracking.

Working Properties

American Chestnut is a good all-purpose wood. It is easy to work. Although it nails and screws well, pre-drilling is suggested. It has gluing qualities. It sands to a smooth finish that remains smooth under friction.



Main Uses

American Chestnut was known to serve cradle to grave, as well as all else between. Historically it was used for railroad ties, fence posts, barn and home construction, millwork, furniture, flooring, and coffins. Today the reclaimed wood is used for furniture, flooring, interior accents, and wooden.

Trivia

- Just like its Oak cousins, Chestnut bark is rich in tannins.
- At one point, this "Mighty Giant," as it has been dubbed, made up 40% of the canopy trees in the low elevation forests of New England.



RECLAIMED WHITE PINE Pinus strobus



CHERRY



MAPLE



OAK



WALNUT



RECLAIMED CHESTNUT

As with most old-growth trees, the White Pine was heavily harvested for its lumber, making it a valuable resource. Old-growth trees yielded wider boards than available today. Boards and beams from old buildings are being reclaimed for lumber to renew the use of these historic trees.

New lumber from White Pine has a light brown to yellow or reddish brown color heartwood with cream white sapwood. It is fine grained with a uniform texture. The wood color darkens with time and exposure to light, with or without finish.

Habitat

White Pine is native to Southeastern Canada, the Great Lakes region, and the Appalachian range. It now grows in areas that have been destroyed by wildfires. It prefers moist, sandy soils and cool, humid climates. It has been found to grow well in well-drained areas, rocky highlands, and boggy areas.

■ Area where White Pine grows
■ Major area where most premium lumber is harvested



Physical Properties

White Pine is a soft and light. It is not stiff, therefore yielding a low shock and wear resistance. It has a low decay resistance. It does accept stains and sealers with ease. It has a quick drying time and shrinks little. It is dimensionally stable after kiln drying.

Working Properties

White Pine has excellent workability qualities. It easily saws, planes, sands, and glues. It finishes nicely, although a sealer is recommended beforehand. It has good nail and screw strength, without the necessity of pre-drilling.



Main Uses

Historically it was used for masts and figureheads of ships, while also being used to build and furnish houses, barns and stables inside and out. The Native Americans used it for their totem poles. Today it is commonly used for furniture, cabinetmaking, millwork, veneer, paneling, carvings, flooring, doors, dowels, boxes, crates, telephone poles, toys and Christmas trees.

Trivia

- The first flag of the US Revolutionary forces depicted a White Pine.
- It is the State tree of Maine and Michigan, as well as the Provincial tree of Ontario.