

YELLOW CEDAR

{*Chamaecyparis nootkatensis*}

Yellow Cedar grows along the coast and is common west of the Coastal Mountains of British Columbia (B.C.).

A species quite unique to this corner of the world, it is a medium-sized tree that can grow up to 24 metres tall and measure 90 cm in diameter when mature. It often grows singly, or in small clumps in a mixture with other conifers. It is a rare and beautiful tree that is tough, solid and extremely durable.

COMMON USES

This wood is incredibly easy to work and therefore is prized for applications such as joinery and carpentry, decorative paneling, furniture, moldings and cabinetwork. Its fine, even texture makes it a top choice for carvings and turnings.

Yellow Cedar is one of the world's most durable woods, with exceptional longevity. It has proven popular for furniture manufacturing, doors, door jambs and window frames.

PHYSICAL PROPERTIES

STIFFNESS / MOE (MPa)	Air Dry	11000
STRENGTH / MOR (MPa)	Air Dry	79.7
DENSITY (kg/m ³)	Air Dry	431
COMPRESSION PARALLEL (MPa)	Air Dry	45.9
SHEAR (MPa)	Air Dry	9.21
SHRINKAGE (air dried - 12%)	Tangential / Radial ratio	1.6

Due to its durability, Yellow Cedar is often used for shingles, posts, poles, marine pilings, small boat hulls, oars and paddles, water and chemical tanks, exterior doors and door jambs, window frames and window boxes. Structural grades are commonly used for exterior applications such as bridges, decking, stairs and for landscaping. It is sometimes used in specialty construction projects such as temples and shrines.

OF INTEREST:

- Proper name - Yellow Cypress
- Closest relatives - Japanese Hinoki and Port Orford Cedar
- Unlike some other B.C. species, density across single growth rings is quite uniform, making this a very good carving and woodworking species
- This effect also accounts for the lack of visual grain



WORKING PROPERTIES

Yellow Cedar is known for its exceptional working properties and can be easily machined and finished.

The wood glues satisfactorily and has moderate nail- and screw-holding ability. It turns, planes and shapes well and can be sanded to a smooth finish.

	PROCESS	PERFORMANCE	COMMENTS
MACHINING	Planing	Excellent	Recommended planer settings: 20° hook 8, 12, 16, or 20 kmpi (knife marks per inch)
	Shaping	Good	Recommended: the use of a counter piece for end grain shaping
	Sanding	Excellent	
FASTENING	Screwing	Average	Average screw retention: 476lb
	Nail Retention	Good	Equivalent to Douglas-fir
	Gluing	Average	Bonds satisfactorily with good-quality adhesives under a moderately wide range of bonding conditions
FINISHING	Staining	Average	Natural finish looks best
	Painting	Average	Older wood should be wiped with paint thinner to remove surface greying
DRYING	Ease of Drying	Good	Dries without difficulty
DURABILITY	Natural Decay Resistance	Good	Appropriate for outdoor usage.
	Treatability	Difficult	Can be improved by incising



*For more information
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