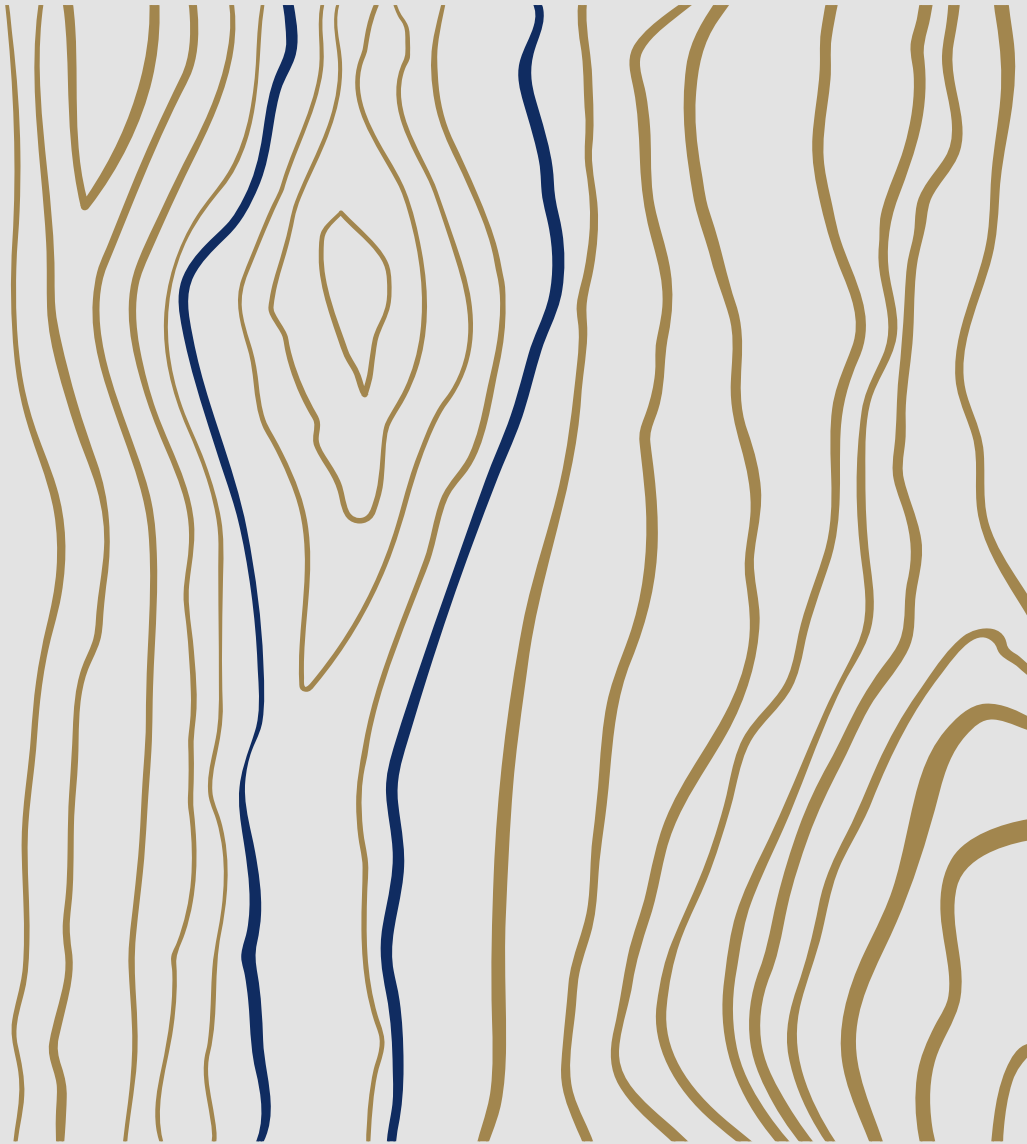


# A Guide to Sustainable American Hardwoods





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# SPECIES GUIDE INTRODUCTION

The hardwood forests of the eastern United States contain a wide range of temperate hardwood species, which have been managed for commercial and non-commercial purposes since the turn of the 20th century.

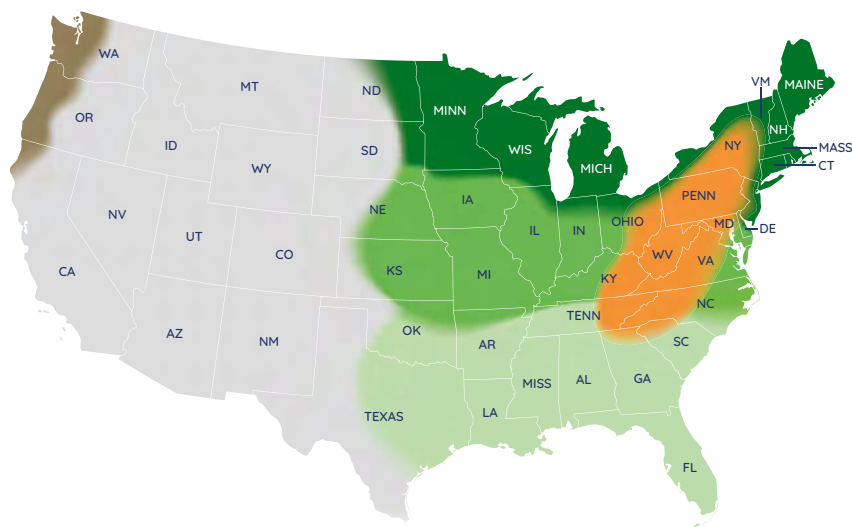
The American hardwood industry, which dates back to the first European settlers, has a wealth of experience in processing the native hardwoods of North America. The U.S. hardwood resource is mainly located in the east, from Maine in the North to the Gulf of Mexico in the South, and westwards across to the Mississippi valley. The USA has more temperate hardwood species than any other region of the world.

Few other countries can boast the success America has had in the sustainability of its hardwood forests. Due to the intensive application of Best Management Practice (BMP), the hardwood forests of America support a vibrant, healthy stand of timber, as well as a large and diverse wildlife population, clean rivers and streams, and a host of recreational activities. The last 90 years of improved forest management, state and federal regulations, together with greater silvicultural understanding and public desire to conserve forests, have resulted in a dramatic recovery and renewal of the American hardwood resource.

The hardwood sawmilling and processing industry, which depends upon this resource, is the largest producer of sawn hardwood in the world. In recent years, the U.S. has substantially increased exports and through careful management of its forests, the United States is growing more hardwood each year than it harvests, ensuring reliable, long term supplies. As the world faces environmental change, with sustainability at the forefront of people’s minds, materials that are natural and plentiful are key and the growing stock of the American forest has more than doubled since 1953.

Their availability and characteristics vary according to the region but every American hardwood species is growing at a far greater rate than it is harvested. Nations that have achieved this level of success in the sustainability of its hardwood forests are few.

Once harvested and milled, American hardwoods offer a great variety of colour, grain and character; from the warm, darker tones of red oak, cherry and alder to the lighter hues of maple, tulipwood and ash. Most of the species featured here can be used in a wide range of applications, from fine furniture to industrial sized structural panels.



<div></div> <b>Northern Region</b>	Long winters, short summers. Particularly suited to slow grown, tight grained hardwoods such as maple and birch.	<div></div> <b>Southern Region</b>	Short winters, long hot summers. Producing fast grown large dimension species such as tulipwood, saggum and ash.
<div></div> <b>Central Region</b>	Hot summers, cold winters. Particularly suited to species such as walnut, hickory and white oak.	<div></div> <b>Appalachian Region</b>	Variable climate, due to differences in both elevation and latitude. Most hardwood species thrive here and is home to the largest concentration of cherry.
<div></div> <b>Pacific Northwest Region</b>	Maritime climate. Separated geographically from the main hardwood growing regions in the East. Red alder and Pacific Coast/ Big leaf maple grow exclusively here.	<b>Note</b> – Many American hardwood species such as ash, tulipwood, soft maple and the red and white oaks, grow across the Northern, Central, Southern and Appalachian regions. But, because of the variation in climate, soil type and elevation, the wood produced can vary significantly in colour, grain and other physical properties.	

## SOURCING AMERICAN HARDWOOD

Wood is a natural material derived from a dynamic resource and as a result, the American hardwoods presented in this guide vary greatly in look, character and performance from species to species. Single species can also vary from one region to another, depending on climate, soil and altitude as well as forest management. This exciting palette can provide great opportunity for design, but it is essential to choose the right species that are fit for purpose. These guidelines, while not exhaustive, are our recommended starting points for conversations to source American hardwoods, ensuring you select species that are suitable for specific applications.

## PROPERTIES

There are many sources of information on the characteristics and working properties of American hardwood species and these are well worth checking to avoid mistakes in processing. For example, oak is very strong and hickory is very hard for flooring, while some others are not. Some species will be more susceptible to movement under varying moisture conditions than others.

## COLOUR CHANGE

The look, or aesthetic, is one of American hardwoods’ most attractive features, so consider colour, grain and finishing before selecting. For example, cherry polishes to a very fine finish, which is hard to achieve in cottonwood. Natural colour variations exist within most U.S. hardwood species, such as differences in heartwood and sapwood, or mineral streaks. Also be aware that some species will change colour over time on exposure to light. Generally, lighter coloured timbers such as cherry and tulipwood will darken and darker timbers such as walnut will lighten.

## REGIONAL DIFFERENCES

One single species can vary according to where it is grown, influenced by climate, length of growing season, temperature according to altitude and more. American exporters and their overseas importers can help explain these differences. For example, ash or oak from the North will likely be quite different to southern oak and ash. These differences can be minimised by sourcing from just one geographical area.

## VARIANCES

As well as regional differences, species can often display variances within a single source, according to the amount of sapwood and heartwood. The difference between the two is minimal in some species (like oak), but in others (like willow) it is much more pronounced. American tulipwood (also known as yellow poplar in the USA) can have huge variances within a single parcel of logs that may be determined just by their diameter.

## SUB-SPECIES

This is a case of ‘same but different’. Some American hardwood species have numerous sub-species. For example, there are about eight red oak and eight white oaks commercially available and, while they are generally the same and all sold as red and white oak, there can be subtle differences. For example, some red oaks grow faster and these may have more open grain, also affected by provenance.

## SPECIFICATION LIMITS

It is important to know the practical limitations of length, width, thickness, drying shrinkage and availability of quality in a given species. We believe this starts in the forest where there is a considerable difference in the size of trees grown; tulipwood is one of the tallest, whereas walnut is generally much smaller and shorter affecting the lumber specifications that are available. Once trees have been harvested, sawmills do not cut logs longer than 16ft (4.8m) and in many species, widths over 12 inches (300mm) are limited. Remember FAS grade (see glossary on page 99) walnut does not come clear in 25-foot lengths. Specify air-dried (AD) or kiln-dried (KD) to defined moisture content (MC). The bulk of hardwood lumber production is focused on thinner sizes such as 25mm and 32mm (produced in feet and inches and expressed as 4/4inch and 5/4inch) and although thicker sizes are available in some species, volume may be limited.

## GRADES

If you are sourcing American hardwood lumber, either directly from the USA or from distributors, it is absolutely essential to understand the NHLA (National Hardwood Lumber Association) grading principles, which indicate yield for specific purposes, to avoid overpaying or underspecifying. For example, furniture manufacturers can achieve excellent yield from No.1 Common ‘furniture’ grade or even lower, whereas joinery and door manufacturers may need the longer lengths of clearer wood only achieved in FAS grade. Your cost is determined by yield, not just price. Grades can be modified by suppliers through negotiation.

In contrast to sawn lumber, veneer producers tend to set their own grades according to customer requirement, grouped as panel, furniture and backing grades.

## FIND A FRIEND

Finally, the best advice is to work with, and listen to, your supplier, whether they are a direct U.S. exporter or an in-country distributor or manufacturer, to understand your needs. These companies distribute the raw material, produce components or finished products that can be specified by architects and designers or consumed by end-users. Regional trade associations, federations and technical wood organisations can provide local market access to companies trading and manufacturing in American hardwoods. Visit [americanhardwood.org](http://americanhardwood.org) for more information.



# SUSTAINABILITY OF AMERICAN HARDWOODS

## OVERVIEW

American hardwoods are legal, sustainable and have low environmental impact. We know this because:

- The Assessment of Lawful Harvesting & Sustainability of U.S. Hardwood Exports, commissioned by AHEC from Seneca Creek Associates in 2008 and comprehensively reviewed and updated in 2017, demonstrates there is less than a 1% risk of any illegal wood entering the U.S. hardwood supply chain.
- The U.S. Forest Service Inventory and Analysis (FIA) Program which shows that between 1953 and 2017, the volume of U.S. hardwood growing stock increased from 5.2 billion m<sup>3</sup> to 12.0 billion m<sup>3</sup>, a gain of over 130%.
- On-going scientific Life Cycle Assessment work which shows that the carbon stored in American hardwood at point of delivery to any country in the world almost always exceeds the carbon emissions associated with extraction, processing and transport.

Drawing on these and other independent sources, AHEC has developed online systems to allow U.S. hardwood exporters to provide a comprehensive American Hardwood Environmental Profile (AHEP) with every individual consignment of product delivered to any market in the world.

You can explore the environmental profile of American hardwoods in more detail using these online tools, available at [americanhardwood.org](http://americanhardwood.org):

- The Interactive Forest Map provides detailed information on forest volume, growth and harvest for individual hardwood species at state and county level throughout the United States.
- The LCA Tool provides environmental impact data such as carbon footprint, forest replenishment time, acidification, and eutrophication for individual hardwood species and lumber thicknesses and a wide range of transport scenarios.

## LEGALITY

A key priority for AHEC is ensuring that neither the value nor the reputation of legally harvested American hardwood is undermined in world markets by competing products from illicit sources. The U.S. hardwood industry supports legislation prohibiting trade in illegally harvested timber and through AHEC, provides tools to demonstrate the negligible risk of any U.S. hardwood being derived from an illegal source.

## INDEPENDENT STUDIES

The Assessment of Lawful Harvesting & Sustainability of U.S. Hardwood Exports commissioned by AHEC from Seneca Creek Associates compiles detailed information on the scope, effectiveness and enforcement of federal, state, and local regulatory programs in U.S. hardwood producing states. The Seneca Creek study, which was first commissioned in 2008, was peer reviewed and fully revised in 2017.

The Seneca Creek study shows that there is less than a 1% risk of any illegal wood entering the U.S. hardwood supply chain. This is due to the combined effects of clear and fully enforced property rights, multi-generational family forest ownership, respect for the rule of law and a strong civil society.

The 2017 Seneca Creek study concludes that: “a safety-net of federal and state laws and regulations, resource assessments and forest and wildlife action plans, Best Management Practices (BMPs), professional logger training, forest health monitoring and protection, conservation programs, technical assistance, outreach and cost-share incentive programs, are effective in assisting family forest owners in achieving legal and regulatory compliance, broadening the professionalism of forest workers and promoting sustainable forestry practices. Overall, federal and state forest programs contribute to ensuring sustainable and legal hardwood supplies”.

The methodology and conclusions of the updated 2017 Seneca Creek study were assessed by an Independent Expert Review Panel in 2018. The Panel concluded that: “the Seneca Creek study provides a robust repeatable and defensible risk analysis that demonstrates the low risk of timber coming from illegal or unsustainable sources”.





## LEGISLATION

AHEC was a leading supporter, through membership of the U.S. Hardwood Federation, of the U.S. Lacey Act Amendment of May 2008. This makes it an offence within the U.S. to possess any plant (excluding agricultural crops but including wood and derivative products) “taken, possessed, transported, or sold” in violation of any relevant foreign or state law.

AHEC has also been closely involved with, and fully supports, the efforts by the European Union to enforce the EU Timber Regulation (EUTR) from 3 March 2013. This regulation imposes mandatory requirements on companies that “first place” forest products on the EU market to implement a “due diligence system” to assess and mitigate the risk of illegal wood entering the supply chain. Similar laws are now being enforced in Australia, Japan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Norway, and South Korea and are being considered for adoption in several other countries including Switzerland and Vietnam.

## TOOLS

To help buyers of U.S. hardwood lumber to comply with EUTR and similar laws, AHEC has developed an online system to allow U.S. hardwood exporters to potentially create an American Hardwood Environmental Profile (AHEP) with every consignment of lumber delivered to any market in the world.

Each AHEP aligns to the requirements of the EUTR and closely follows the EU Guidance Document for the EU Timber Regulation. The AHEP provides, for each consignment, access to information on the name of the U.S. supplier, product description, quantity of wood, commercial and scientific species name, place of harvest and documents demonstrating negligible risk of illegal harvest alongside other environmental impact data.

While laws like EUTR place the due diligence obligation firmly on the importer, AHEC has also prepared Members Guidance on the EU Timber Regulation and Guidance on the Australian Illegal Logging Prohibition Act to ensure that U.S. hardwood exporters are fully briefed on the legal obligations and therefore better able to assist their overseas customers.

## SUSTAINABILITY

While forests are dynamic eco-systems in which species composition will shift over time, regular forest inventories undertaken by the federal government demonstrate that there is rapid growth in the volume of nearly all commercial hardwoods in U.S. forests. This growth is also well distributed throughout the U.S. hardwoods forests.

According to the latest statistical update by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA):

- Between 1953 and 2017 the volume of U.S. hardwood growing stock increased from 5.2 billion m<sup>3</sup> to 12.0 billion m<sup>3</sup>, a gain of over 130%.
- U.S. hardwood forests are aging and more trees are being allowed to grow to size before being harvested. The volume of hardwood trees with diameters 48cm or greater increased nearly four-fold from 0.73 billion m<sup>3</sup> in 1953 to 2.8 billion m<sup>3</sup> in 2017. The proportion of hardwood trees in this mature age class increased from 14% in 1953 to 24% in 2017.
- The total area of hardwood and mixed hardwood-softwood forest types in the U.S. increased from 99 million hectares in 1953 to 117 million hectares in 2017, an average of 280,000 hectares per year – that’s equivalent to adding an area the size of a soccer pitch every 90 seconds throughout the entire 64 year period.

## OWNERSHIP

The rapid expansion of U.S. hardwood forest owes much to the fact that it is predominantly owned by a large number of private individuals and families whose primary motivation is usually not timber production or economics.

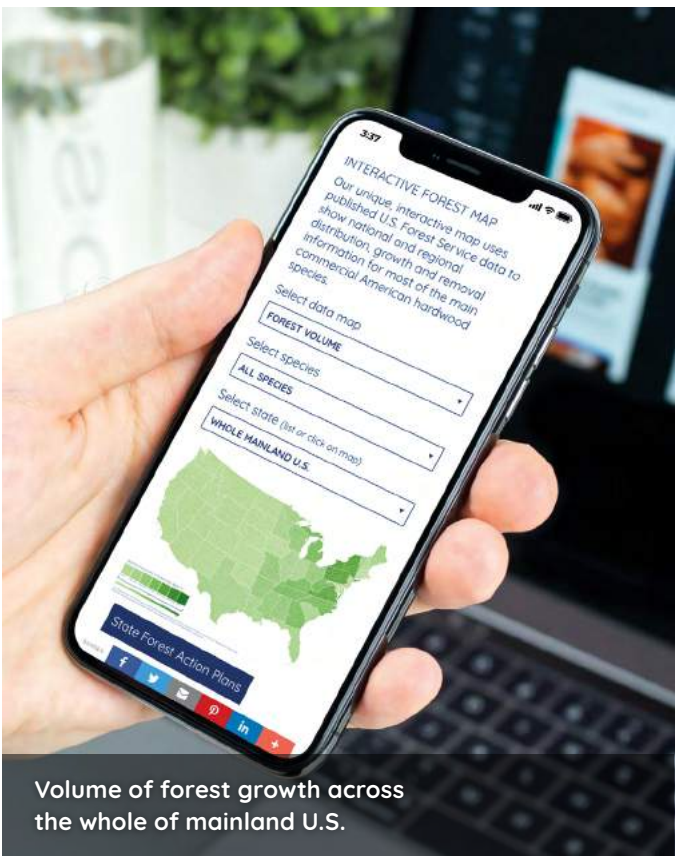
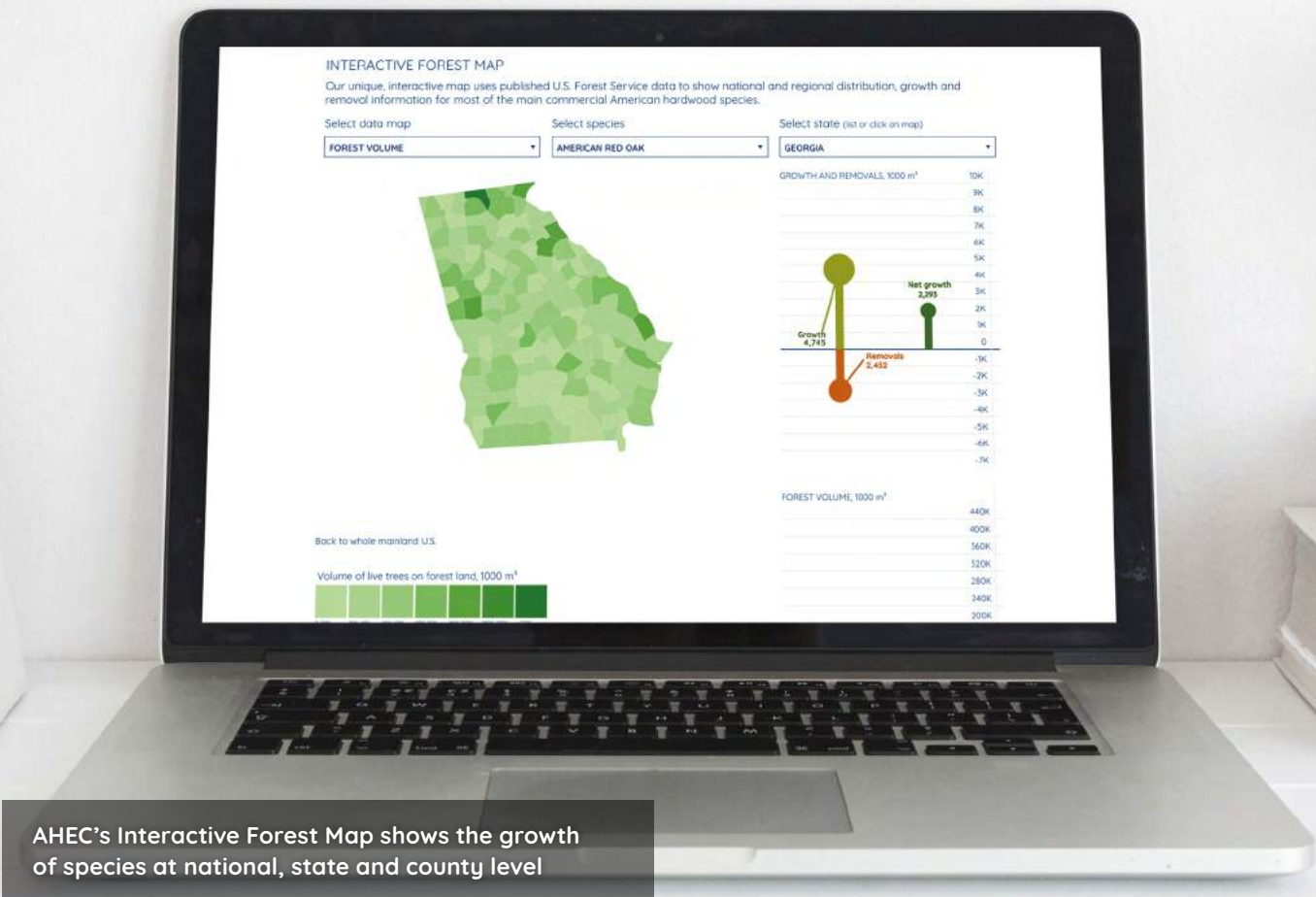
Of the total hardwood harvest in 2016, 89% came from privately owned lands and only 11% from public lands. In the Eastern States, which accounted for 98% of all U.S. hardwood harvested in 2016, there are 9.75 million forest owners, each with an average of 15 hectares. Only 5% of private forest area is owned by corporations and the average size of corporate holdings is only 133 hectares.

According to the National Woodland Owner Survey undertaken every five years by the U.S. Forest Service, the most commonly cited reasons for owning family forests relate to the beauty and privacy the forests provide, along with wildlife and nature protection.

## MANAGEMENT

The owners of U.S. hardwood forests usually grow their forests on longer rotations and typically harvest selectively a few trees per hectare, rather than clear-felling. Furthermore, after harvesting, forest owners usually rely on natural regeneration, which is abundant in the deep fertile forest soils of the U.S. In 2017, natural forests accounted for 97% of the area of hardwood and mixed hardwood-softwood forest types in the U.S. and only 3% were plantations. Even in the plantations, no non-native “exotic” or genetically modified species are used.

AHEC’s Interactive Forest Map provides more detailed information on hardwood forest volume, growth and harvest at state and county level throughout the United States.





# AMERICAN RED OAK

**LATIN NAME**  
*Quercus species*, principally *Quercus rubra*

**OTHER COMMON NAMES**  
northern red oak, southern red oak

American red oak is the dominant species in the U.S. hardwood forests – with distinctive grain, and wood that is not always red in colour. The name comes from the leaf colour in the fall. Red oak may be sold on the basis of ‘Northern’, ‘Southern’ and ‘Appalachian’. There are several commercial sub-species of American red oak.

- WOOD DESCRIPTION**
- In general the sapwood of red oaks is light brown and the heartwood is often, but not always, pinkish to reddish brown. The colour difference between the sapwood and heartwood is quite distinct. The wood of red oak is generally straight-grained and coarse textured.
  - The wood is figured with medullary rays – a feature of all true (*Quercus*) oaks – smaller in red oak than white oak. The wood is porous, and easily identified from the end grain, so not suitable for wine barrels.

1.04  
seconds

**REGENERATION RATE**

It takes 1.04 seconds to grow 1m³ of American red oak

The replacement rate is calculated from total U.S. annual increment of the specified hardwood species derived from the U.S. Forest Service Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program and assumes that 2m³ of logs is harvested to produce 1m³ of lumber (i.e. 50% conversion efficiency). The rapid rate of replacement is due to the very large volume of hardwood trees in U.S. forest.



Fugu by Jasper Morrison Studio for Tristram Hunt, Victoria & Albert Museum as part of Legacy

**MECHANICAL PROPERTIES**

All American red oaks have very good overall strength properties relative to weight. The wood is hard and heavy with medium bending strength, stiffness and high crushing strength. It has excellent steam bending capability. Being hard, stable when dry and easy to finish and stain, it is ideal for furniture, flooring and all forms of interior joinery.

More information about the mechanical properties of red oak and its structural potential can be found at [americanhardwood.org](http://americanhardwood.org)

<b>0.63</b> Specific gravity (12% M.C.)	<b>12,549 MPa</b> Modulus of elasticity
<b>705 kg/m³</b> Average weight (12% M.C.)	<b>46.610 MPa</b> Compressive strength (parallel to grain)
<b>10.8%</b> Average volume shrinkage (Green to 6% M.C.)	<b>5,738 N</b> Hardness
<b>98.599 MPa</b> Modulus of Rupture	<b>D40</b> Structural Eurocode 5 design value





Yale Forestry School by Hopkins Architects



Bailarinas by Sergio Rodríguez Casado as part of Toca Madera



Duo by Terence Woodgate for Alex Beard, The Royal Opera House as part of Legacy



Timber Wave by Amanda Levete Architects

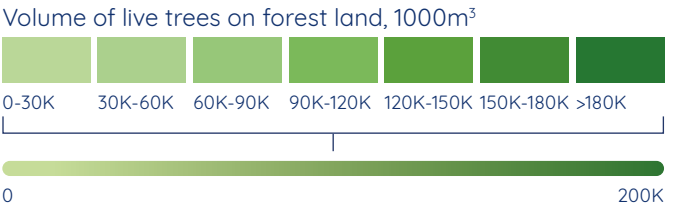
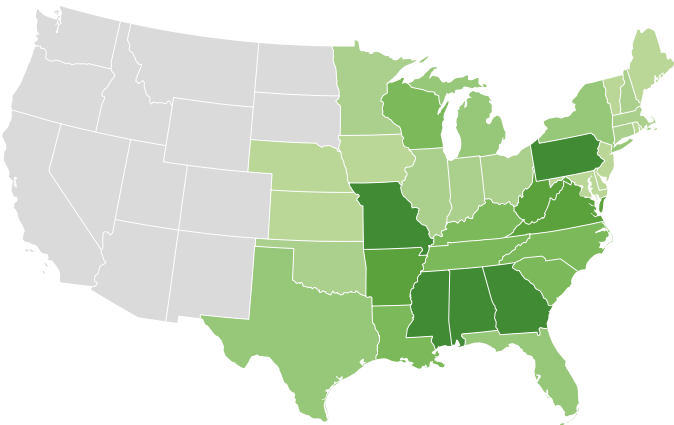


Wall Street Bookcase by RIVA 1920

MATERIAL AVAILABILITY

Red oak from the USA is readily available as sawn lumber and veneer, in a wide range of grades and sizes. Thicker lumber 10/4" (63.5mm) & 12/4" (76.2mm) can be sourced in relatively small volumes from specialist suppliers, but is widely produced throughout the hardwood industry from 4/4" (25.4mm) through to 8/4" (50.8mm). In the north the sapwood tends to be less, due to the shorter growing season, than in the south where the wood is grown faster with more open grain and texture. Red oak may be sold on the basis of 'northern' and 'southern', but this may be an over-simplification of the differences according to growing location.

FOREST VOLUME



FOREST DISTRIBUTION

Red oak trees grow only naturally and almost exclusively in North America, although planted elsewhere. They are widely distributed throughout most of the eastern United States in mixed hardwood forests. The trees are very tall. There are many sub-species, all within the red oak classification, which grow from north to south; some high in the mountains and others on low land giving rise to different characteristics. Thus there are significant variations in red oaks depending on location, in particular between the slower grown northern and faster grown southern trees. Red oaks are regarded as highly sustainable for both domestic and export consumption and, being the largest species group, are more abundant than the white oaks.

PERFORMANCE

Red oak lumber machines well, with good performance in nailing and screwing, although pre-boring is recommended. It glues well and can be stained and polished to a very good finish. Being porous, red oak absorbs all treatments. The wood dries best slowly to minimise degrade, but with high shrinkage and, like all oaks, can be susceptible to movement in performance in humid conditions. The wood is rated as slightly resistant to heartwood decay, but moderately easy to treat with preservatives. With care, red oak is also suited for thermal modification (see page 54).

MAIN USES

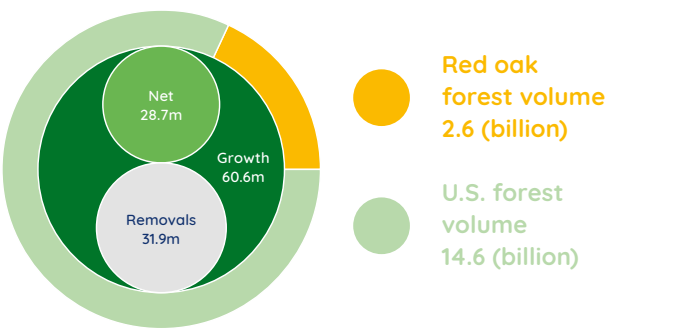
This sustainably managed species group from natural forests of North America, with excellent environmental credentials, is a key species in many export markets. Its main uses are in furniture, flooring, windows, doors, architectural joinery, mouldings and kitchen cabinets. It also has the potential to be used in certain applications for construction, such as glulam.



FOREST GROWTH

FIA data shows U.S. red oak growing stock is 2.62 billion m³, 17.9% of total U.S. hardwood growing stock. American red oak is growing 60.6 million m³ per year while the harvest is 31.9 million m³ per year. The net volume (after harvest) is increasing 28.7 million m³ each year. U.S. red oak growth exceeds or is in balance with harvest in all states except Texas.

GROWTH AND REMOVALS, MILLION M³





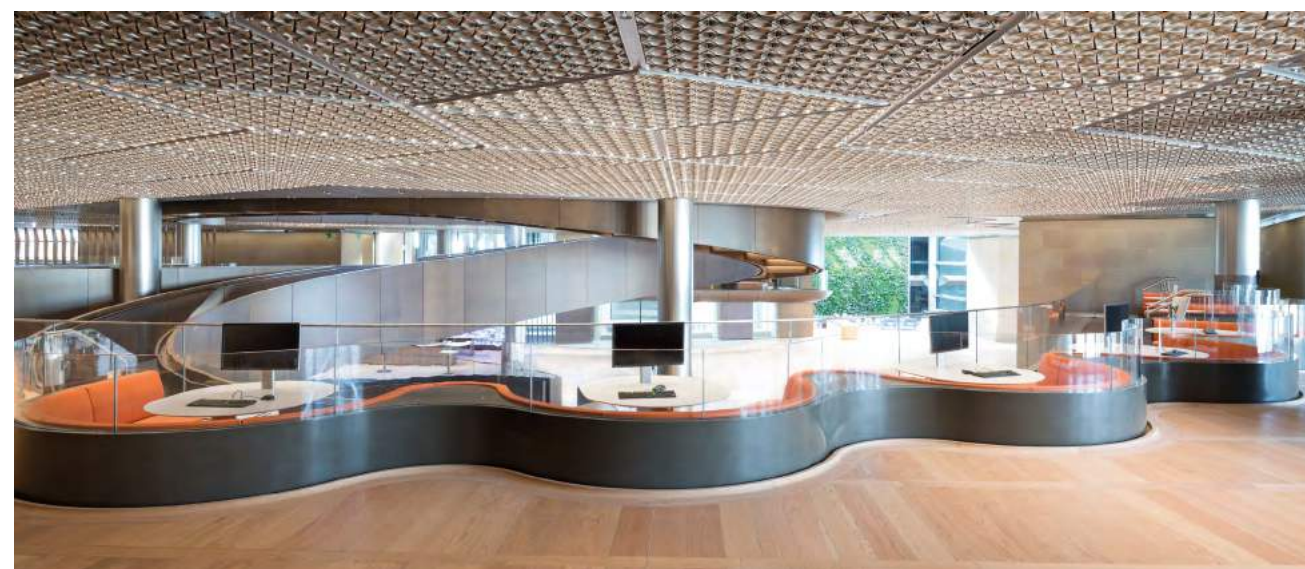
## CASE STUDY

BLOOMBERG  
HQ BY FOSTER  
+ PARTNERS

Bloomberg's European Headquarters in the City of London is a major showcase project, designed by a Foster + Partners team, led by Norman Foster himself. Red oak is used throughout the building in considerable quantities – totaling over 40,000 m<sup>2</sup>.

The Vortex is a dramatic double-height space at the main entrance of the headquarters. 6,000 unique panels of red oak veneer had to be put together, much like a large jigsaw that could only be assembled in a particular sequence. The multi-purpose room is a flexible space for meetings and presentations adjacent to the building's auditorium. American red oak used in the form of glulam, comprising the 'fin walls' which define the space. An innovative approach to the flooring means that it doesn't create any footfall noise. Each red oak floorboard has a magnetic strip running its length, sticking to the metal access floor below, so each piece can be lifted with ease and dropped back into place.

*"Businesses now want their buildings to have a different sense of personality and be more responsive to people who work in them. Timber is rather successful in delivering both these things. People warm to it and it makes them feel better about their environment. And, while each building is the result of conversation between client and architect, for sure we may use more red oak. Bloomberg loves the result it's delivered and so do we."* – Michael Jones, Foster + Partners.





# AMERICAN TULIPWOOD

LATIN NAME

*Liriodendron tulipifera*

OTHER COMMON NAMES

yellow poplar, tulip poplar, canary whitewood; not to be confused with European or Chinese poplar

Commercially American tulipwood is one of the most prolific hardwood species from the U.S. hardwood forests and is unique to North America, having been eliminated in Europe by the last ice age.

WOOD DESCRIPTION

The grain characteristic of tulipwood is muted in comparison to species such as ash and oak, and is more like maple in character but darker in colour. However, there is a marked difference between the sapwood and heartwood of tulipwood. The sapwood is creamy white whereas the heartwood can vary from pale yellow, or brown, and even green to purple in extreme cases. The wood darkens with time when exposed to UV light and the green colour will turn brown. The wood of tulipwood is straight-grained with a medium to fine texture.

1.82

seconds

REGENERATION RATE

It takes 1.82 seconds to grow 1m³ of American tulipwood

The replacement rate is calculated from total U.S. annual increment of the specified hardwood species derived from the U.S. Forest Service Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program and assumes that 2m³ of logs is harvested to produce 1m³ of lumber (i.e. 50% conversion efficiency). The rapid rate of replacement is due to the very large volume of hardwood trees in U.S. forest.



Interior of Maggie's, Oldham by dRMM Architects

MECHANICAL PROPERTIES

Tulipwood has extraordinary overall strength properties relative to weight, making it highly suitable for structural applications, such as glue-laminated beams and cross laminated timber (CLT). The wood has relative low density, with high bending, shock resistance, and stiffness values, but is lower in compression and hardness. The wood has medium steam-bending capability and is extremely stable when fully dry and not installed in humid conditions. It is easy to finish and stain or paint, so it is highly suitable for most furniture.

More information about the mechanical properties of tulipwood and its structural potential can be found at [americanhardwood.org](http://americanhardwood.org)

0.42

Specific gravity (12% M.C.)

10,894 MPa

Modulus of elasticity

449 kg/m³

Average weight (12% M.C.)

38.198 MPa

Compressive strength (parallel to grain)

9.8%

Average volume shrinkage (Green to 6% M.C.)

2,402 N

Hardness

69.640 MPa

Modulus of rupture

\* Tulipwood achieves D40 for its strength and stiffness, but it is not listed in Eurocode 5, because it does not meet the minimum density requirement. A full set of test values can be accessed at [americanhardwood.org](http://americanhardwood.org)





Au Pain Doré by Nature Humaine



Table Turned by Barnby+Day for Alex De Rijke as part of The Wish List

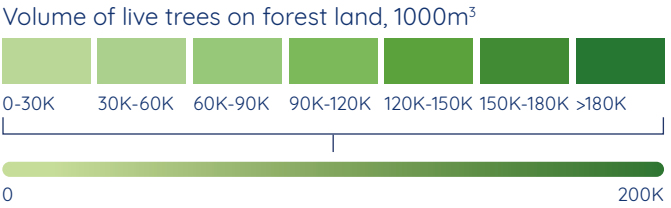
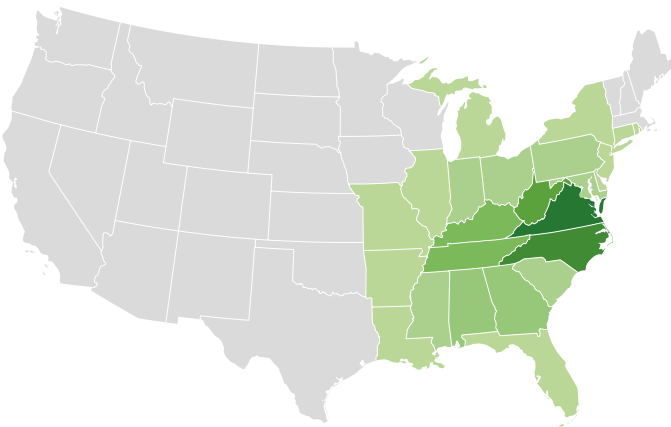


Nieuwegein's Theatre and Arts Centre by Frits van Dongen and Patrick Koschuch

### MATERIAL AVAILABILITY

Tulipwood from the USA is readily available as sawn lumber in a wide range of grades and thicknesses (4/4" through to 16/4") due to its ease of drying. A relatively large forest tree which can produce higher average lumber widths and lengths than other commercial species. Average lumber widths and lengths can be higher than other commercial species. Tulipwood is used in plywood production but with more limited availability as decorative veneer. The sapwood produces the often preferred whiter wood, as the heartwood usually exhibits strong colour variation. However the use of unsorted tulipwood displaying all its natural colour variation is on the increase, especially in Europe. Tulipwood is sold domestically, and sometimes referred to in export, as 'poplar' but should not be confused with European or Chinese poplar.

### FOREST VOLUME



### FOREST DISTRIBUTION

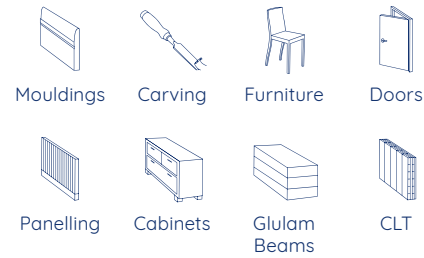
Tulipwood trees grow exclusively in North America and are widely distributed throughout most of the eastern United States in mixed hardwood forests. It is a single species that is not a true poplar (*Populus*), and is part of the *Magnoliaceae* family producing wood that is superior to the many poplar species. The trees are huge and identified by their tulip-like flowers giving rise to the name. Each tree can produce millions of seeds annually. Tulipwood grows from north to south and is one of the most sustainable hardwoods in the USA.

### PERFORMANCE

- Tulipwood lumber is easy to machine, plane, turn and glue with good screwing performance, although pre-boring is recommended. It tends to split when nailed. Tulipwood can easily be stained and polished, or painted, to a high quality finish. The wood is stable when dry, but can be susceptible to movement in performance in humid conditions.
- The wood is non-resistant to decay. The heartwood can be resistant to preservative treatment, whereas the sap is permeable. Overall, tulipwood can be considered for preservation with modern preservative treatment methods including thermal modification, to which it is well-suited.

### MAIN USES

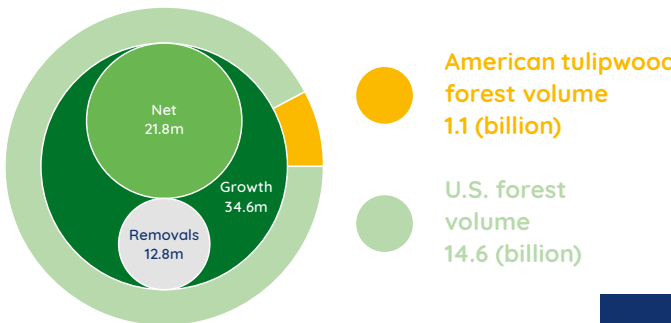
This sustainably managed wood from natural forests of North America, with excellent environmental credentials, is a key species in many export markets. Its main uses are in furniture, doors, panelling, architectural interior joinery and mouldings and kitchen cabinets. It is also used in certain applications for construction and in some specialist applications such as carving.



### FOREST GROWTH

FIA data shows U.S. tulipwood growing stock is 1.12 billion m<sup>3</sup>, 7.7% of total U.S. hardwood growing stock. American tulipwood is growing 34.6 million m<sup>3</sup> per year while the harvest is 12.8 million m<sup>3</sup> per year. The net volume (after harvest) is increasing 21.8 million m<sup>3</sup> each year. U.S. tulipwood growth exceeds harvest in all states.

### GROWTH AND REMOVALS, MILLION M<sup>3</sup>





# CROSS-LAMINATED TIMBER

TECHNICAL STUDY

MultiPLY by Waugh Thistleton Architects and  
Arup for Madrid Design Festival 2020

The development of cross-laminated timber, or CLT, has transformed the structural use of timber. From small beginnings in the mid-1990s, building in CLT is now a widely-accepted and increasingly popular method of timber construction, especially for larger commercial developments. The last 20 years has seen an exceptional rise in its use. Reasons for this are related to its outstanding capability for prefabrication and its remarkable structural and environmental benefits.

The versatility of CLT is leading to new and innovative timber buildings. There are many benefits to building in CLT: the speed of build is much quicker; the build process is less noisy, and timber construction is much lighter, meaning reduced foundation requirements and the prospect of extra storeys. The environmental advantages are considerable too, with the timber panels acting as long-term carbon stores. The health and wellbeing offered by timber buildings is also now well-documented and the insulation and thermal performance of the building is considerably improved.

CLT is a clever way to create large structural panels from small pieces of timber. CLT consists of planks (or lamellas) of sawn, glued, and layered wood, where each layer is oriented perpendicular to the previous one. By joining layers of wood perpendicular to each other, structural rigidity for the panel is obtained in both directions, similar to plywood but with thicker components. In this way, the panel has great tensile and compressive strength. These panels can be used to form wall, floor and roof panels. The panels are quick to produce in a factory environment and they can be machined to very high tolerances. Panel sizes are typically 16 metres by 2.95 metres but can be larger.

The first CLT factories started operating in Europe in the early 1990's utilising the abundant supply of the native softwood, pine and spruce. For 20 years, Europe dominated CLT production but it is now developing as a global business with new factories opening in all major continents, with each region exploring its potential with raw material that is the most cost effective and abundant.



CLT panel surfaces being sanded



Since 2012, AHEC, working in close collaboration with engineering consultants ARUP, have pioneered research and undertaken experiments with enlightened architects, into the potential of using hardwood as an alternative fibre resource to softwood for CLT manufacturing. AHEC identified American tulipwood as an ideal pioneer species due to the fact it is exceptionally strong for its weight. The thinking behind this research was to offer relatively thin CLT panels of much higher strength and stiffness, together with a different aesthetic, to the look of softwoods. Over the last 10 years AHEC has collaborated on a number of landmark CLT projects utilising American tulipwood CLT and each project has been undertaken with an element of research and development to expand the knowledge around American tulipwood as a raw material for commercial hardwood CLT production.

The first demonstration of the CLT potential of American tulipwood was the *Endless Stair*, designed by dRMM architects as a landmark project for the London Design Festival in 2013. Inspired by the images of Dutch graphic artist, M.C. Escher, the three storey network of stairs is now widely recognised as the pioneer use of hardwood in CLT manufacture. Tests at Trento University on the strength properties of the small experimental CLT panels, produced in Italy by Imolegno, revealed superior strength compared to spruce, with rolling shear values, a key performance indicator, three times greater.

Building on what was learnt for *Endless Stair*, AHEC approached Alison Brooks Architects in 2016, challenging them to push the boundaries of what was possible with tulipwood CLT by working with some of the largest hardwood panels ever produced. These first ever industrially produced hardwood CLT panels, including some curved, were produced in Germany by Zueblin Timber. The result was *The Smile*, another landmark project for LDF, a 34m long double cantilever inverted arc that was capable of carrying up to 60 people at either end. The 12 multi layered panels up to 14m long and 4.5m wide were connected by more than six thousand self-tapping screws. *The Smile* is still widely acknowledged as one of the most complex and challenging CLT structures ever built and could not have been made in softwood.

2017 saw the completion of the first permanent building made from American tulipwood CLT, Maggie's Cancer Centre in Oldham in the UK, designed by dRMM Architects. This award winning building is thoughtful, holistic, therapeutic, warm and filled with surprises – even the smallest detail has been carefully considered and chosen to improve patient wellbeing. It stands as a pivotal moment for modern architecture and timber in construction.



CLT panels laid perpendicular to one another

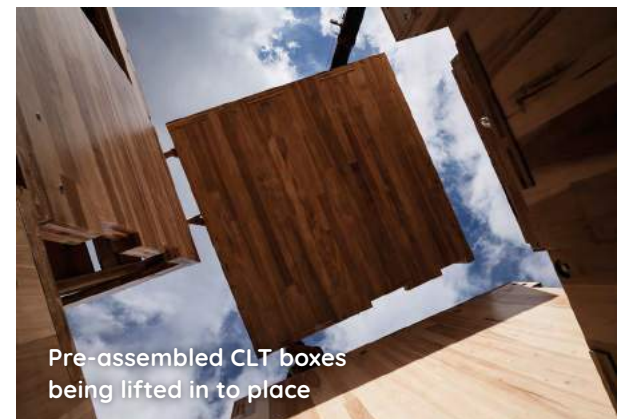


Detail of panel to panel connection joint

The most recent demonstration of the structural capability of tulipwood CLT was in the 2018 London Design Festival project *MultiPly* – a three storey, three dimensional maze structure designed by Waugh Thistleton Architects. The complete structure comprised 17 interconnecting modules made from more than a hundred 60mm and 100mm thick, 2.6m square CLT panels. This modular structure with its flexible design and connection detail allowed it to be re-erected in a different configuration as part of Milan Design Week in 2019 and again in a new cuboid arrangement for the 2020 Madrid Design Festival.



*Endless Stair* by dRMM Architects and Arup for London Design Festival 2013



Pre-assembled CLT boxes being lifted in to place



*The Smile* by Alison Brooks Architects and Arup for London Design Festival 2016

Working with ARUP, Construction Scotland Innovation Centre (CSIC) Glenalmond Timber and Napier University, AHEC were able to produce the first ever CLT panels made in the UK. During the manufacturing process, data collection and testing made it possible to create a detailed production schedule for tulipwood CLT and enable a comparison with published data for softwood CLT. The information is available in a technical document Tulipwood CLT Properties and Manufacturing Requirements. This publication together with detailed information on all AHEC's tulipwood CLT projects can be accessed at [americanhardwood.org](http://americanhardwood.org)



# AMERICAN CHERRY

LATIN NAME  
*Prunus serotina*

OTHER COMMON NAMES  
black cherry

American cherry is a supreme hardwood species from the U.S. hardwood forests and is unique to North America, with warm colour tones and superb finishing qualities. It is quite different in size and appearance to ornamental cherry trees.

## WOOD DESCRIPTION

The heartwood of cherry can vary from rich red to reddish brown and darkens on exposure to light with time. The sapwood is creamy white. Although the difference between heart and sap colour is marked, this can be reduced by steaming. The wood of cherry has a fine uniform, straight and unpronounced grain with a fine smooth texture. The small brown pith flecks, pin knots and gum pockets or streaks are natural characteristics of cherry, but their occurrence varies according to region.

6.12  
seconds

## REGENERATION RATE

It takes 6.12 seconds to grow 1m³ of American cherry

The replacement rate is calculated from total U.S. annual increment of the specified hardwood species derived from the U.S. Forest Service Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program and assumes that 2m³ of logs is harvested to produce 1m³ of lumber (i.e. 50% conversion efficiency). The rapid rate of replacement is due to the very large volume of hardwood trees in U.S. forest.



Bourke Street Bakery by GRT Architects

## MECHANICAL PROPERTIES

Cherry has medium density, with good wood bending properties, medium strength and shock resistance, but low stiffness, and can be steam bent with care. Being hard and stable when dry the wood is very easy to stain and finish to an excellent surface. It is highly prized for furniture and interior joinery. As a relatively soft species, American cherry is more suitable for flooring in areas with low traffic, such as bedrooms, or in cultures where shoes are not worn in homes – as in Asia.

0.50  
Specific gravity (12% M.C.)

561 kg/m³  
Average weight (12% M.C.)

9.2%  
Average volume shrinkage  
(Green to 6% M.C.)

84.809 MPa  
Modulus of rupture

10,274 MPa  
Modulus of elasticity

49.023 MPa  
Compressive strength  
(parallel to grain)

4,226 N  
Hardness



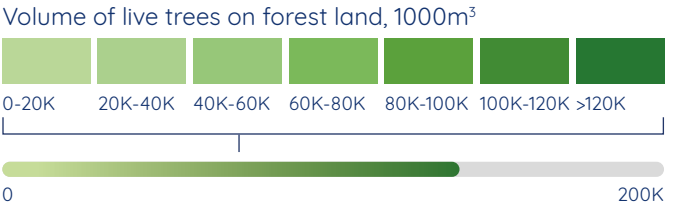
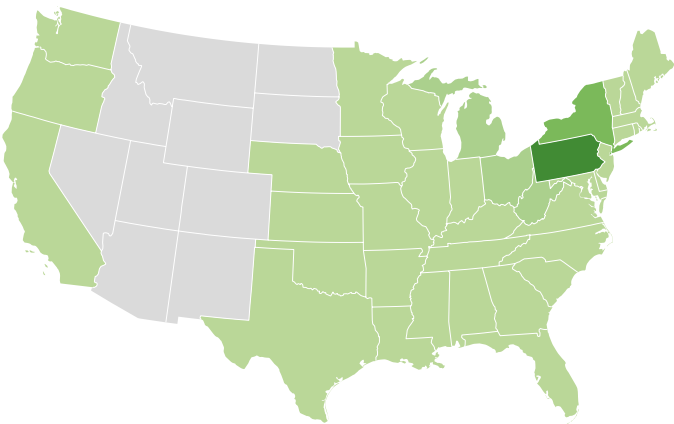


Mesamachine by Jaime Hayon as part of Connected

MATERIAL AVAILABILITY

- Cherry from the USA is readily available as veneer and sawn lumber in a range of grades and sizes, although limited as thicker material; 10/4" (63.5mm) & 12/4" (76.2mm). The species can be subject to cycles of popularity or fashion, so that apparent shortages of dry lumber available to deliver may not reflect the substantial resource available for harvest.
- Cherry may be sold selected for colour, defining the amount of sap-free material or sold sap-free one face. For example, cherry boards may be sold 90/50 meaning 90% heartwood on one face and not less than 50% heartwood on the reverse side – or sold in other specifications. Consultation with suppliers is recommended.

FOREST VOLUME



FOREST DISTRIBUTION

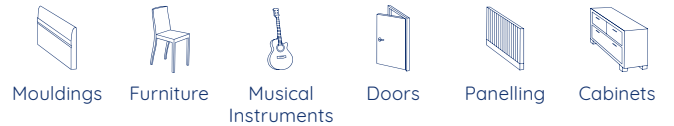
American forest cherry trees grow principally in the northeast of the USA in mixed hardwood forests. The species is different from the many floral cherries planted throughout the world. It is a single species; the trees growing tall and often in dense stands in several U.S. states, notably Pennsylvania, New York, Virginia and West Virginia. Cherry has a relatively short rotation, taking less time to mature than other hardwoods. Much of the current resource is the result of cherry's ability to regenerate naturally after forest fires.

PERFORMANCE

- Cherry lumber is easy to machine, plane and turn. It glues well with good performance in screwing and nailing. It has excellent carving and moulding properties. Cherry can easily be sanded, stained and polished to a very fine and smooth finish.
- The heartwood is resistant to decay and is moderately resistant to preservative treatment.
- Users should take into account that both the heartwood of cherry can darken in tone quite quickly on exposure to light.

MAIN USES

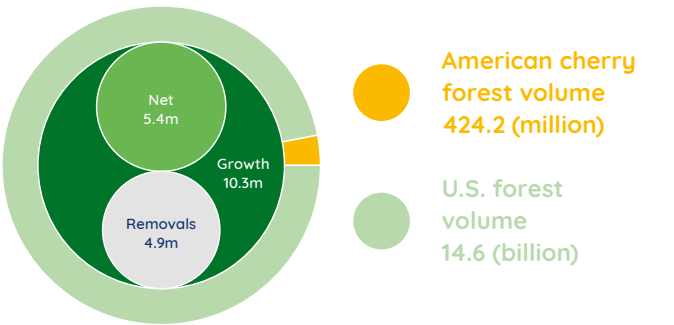
This sustainably managed wood from natural forests of North America, with excellent environmental credentials, is revered worldwide for its warmth of colour and fine finish. It is highly suitable for furniture, cabinet making and high class joinery. It is widely used for doors, panelling, architectural interior joinery, mouldings and kitchen cabinets, and some flooring. It is also used in certain specialist applications such as musical instruments and luxury boat interiors.



FOREST GROWTH

FIA data shows U.S. cherry growing stock is 424.2 million m³, 2.9% of total U.S. hardwood growing stock. American cherry is growing 10.3 million m³ per year while the harvest is 4.9 million m³ per year. The net volume (after harvest) is increasing by 5.4 million m³ each year. U.S. cherry growth exceeds harvest in all the main producing states.

GROWTH AND REMOVALS, MILLION M³





# ROYAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC

CASE STUDY

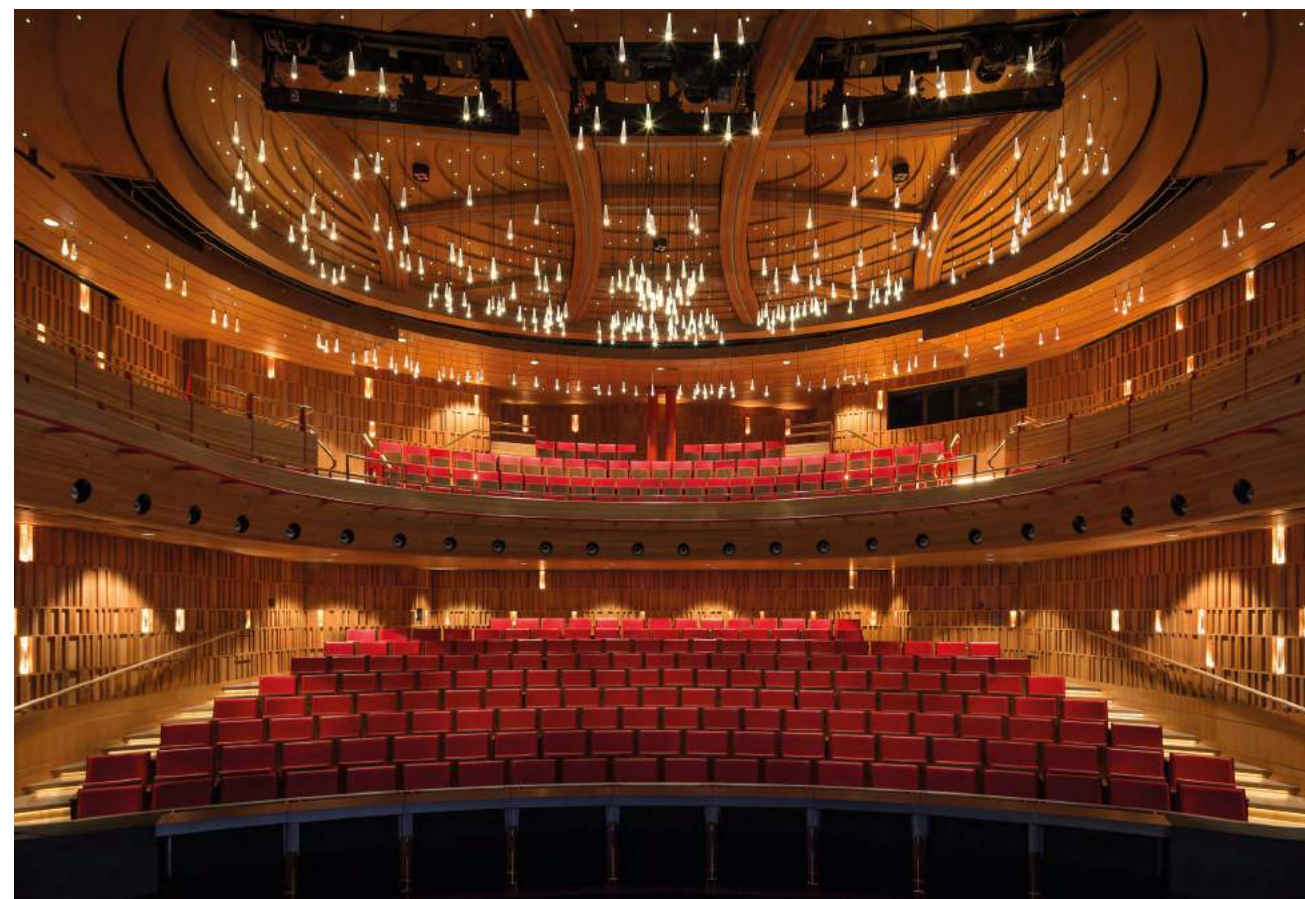
Designed for both opera and musical theatre productions, The Susie Sainsbury Theatre has been redesigned by Ian Ritchie Architects and sits at the heart of the Royal Academy of Music in London.

Inspired by the curved shapes of string instruments, the 309-seat American cherry-lined Theatre has been acoustically refined to deliver outstanding sound qualities.



Architect Ian Ritchie comments on the space “In designing the new spaces, we took inspiration from the shape and wooden construction of string instruments, their tuning mechanisms and the physical relationships between artist and instrument. Our earliest research into the materiality of wood, how it is transformed and tuned, along with an awareness of the role of varnish in instruments made in Cremona, birthplace of Stradivarius, led us to exploit the haptic qualities that finished wood would give as a reflector of sound, warmth and light.

For the Theatre our ambition was to conceive a space that could give the sense of both intimate and epic qualities depending upon the chosen music, in contrast to the cool lime washed oak whiteness of the Recital Hall above the Theatre. The cherry-lined walls, ceiling, balcony front and balcony (Prunus serotina) of the Theatre have all been acoustically refined to deliver outstanding sound qualities with graded detailing to blend the sound in all directions and carefully angled surfaces creating a completely immersive experience for audiences.”





# AMERICAN ASH

**LATIN NAME**  
*Fraxinus species, principally Fraxinus americana*

**OTHER COMMON NAMES**  
northern ash, southern ash

American ash is ideal for bending and turning. It is strong and tough with distinctive grain, character and colour.

- WOOD DESCRIPTION**
- In general ash is a light coloured wood, with sapwood varying from white to yellow and heartwood light to dark brown, sometimes with lighter streaks. The colour difference between the outer light-coloured white sapwood and inner, darker, even brown heartwood is quite distinct. Ash wood is generally straight-grained with a coarse uniform texture. Its appearance has a very strong grain contrast between the softer summer growth and hard winter growth rings. No two pieces are ever the same in appearance.
  - Light brown flecks, or mineral streaks, sometimes referred to as ‘glassworm’, are common in ash and are treated as a natural characteristic, and are not considered as a defect under the NHLA Grading Rules. They do not undermine the integrity of the wood.

19.05  
seconds

**REGENERATION RATE**  
It takes 19.05 seconds to grow 1m³ of American ash

The replacement rate is calculated from total U.S. annual increment of the specified hardwood species derived from the U.S. Forest Service Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program and assumes that 2m³ of logs is harvested to produce 1m³ of lumber (i.e. 50% conversion efficiency). The rapid rate of replacement is due to the very large volume of hardwood trees in U.S. forest.



Hogeschool van Amsterdam in Amstel  
Campus by Kohn Pederson Fox

**MECHANICAL PROPERTIES**  
Ash wood has very good overall strength properties relative to its weight. It has excellent shock resistance, which takes some of the pain from those using hand tools and sports equipment, such as baseball bats and hockey sticks. It steam bends very well, so is a favourite of furniture makers and hobbyists. Being very hard, stable when dry and easy to finish and stain, it is ideal for furniture and flooring.

To find out more about the mechanical properties of ash read the full structural guide.

<b>0.60</b> Specific gravity (12% M.C.)	<b>11,997 MPa</b> Modulus of elasticity
<b>673 kg/m³</b> Average weight (12% M.C.)	<b>51.092 MPa</b> Compressive strength (parallel to grain)
<b>10.7%</b> Average volume shrinkage (Green to 6% M.C.)	<b>5,871 N</b> Hardness
<b>103.425 MPa</b> Modulus of rupture	<b>D35</b> Structural Eurocode 5 design value

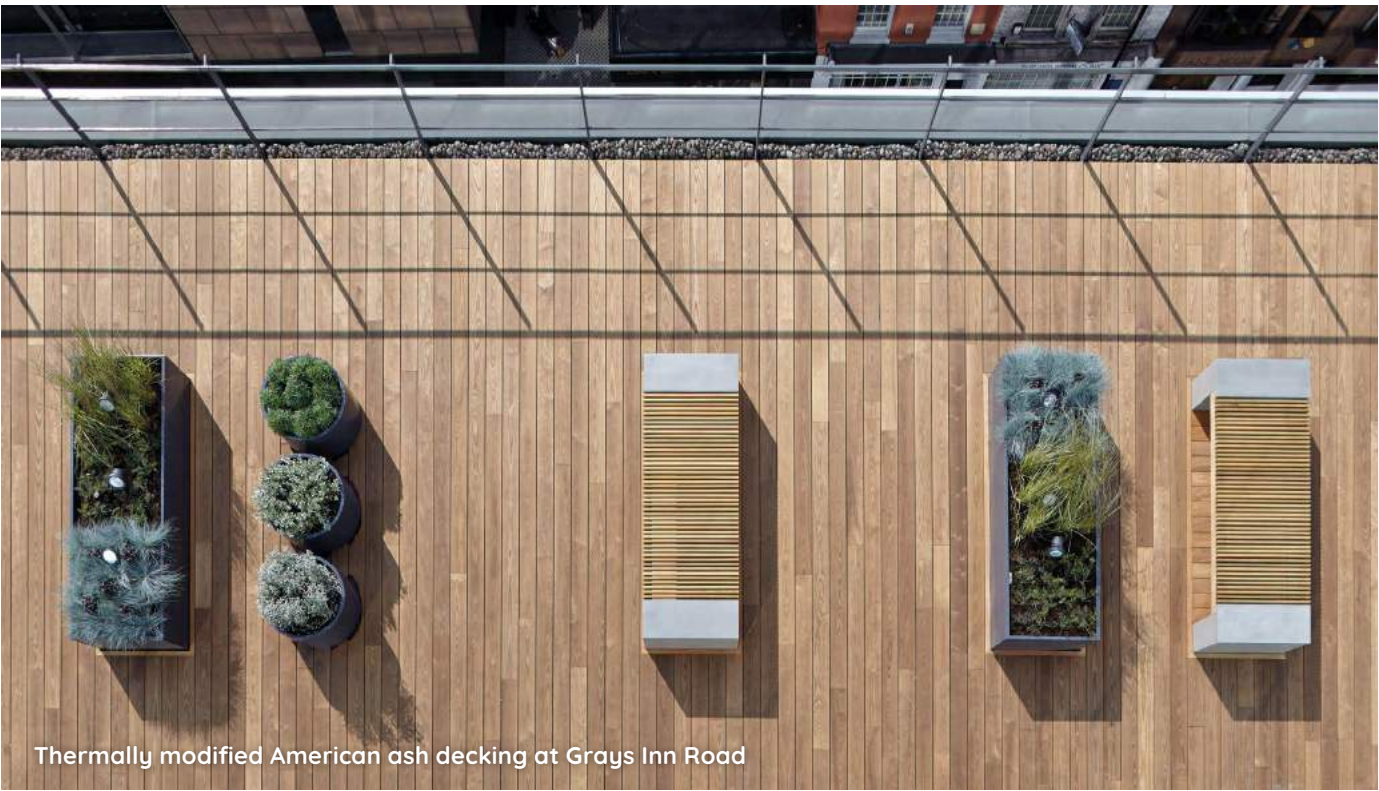




Folded Chair by Norie Matsumoto as part of Out of the Woods



Mit Mat Mama by Román Izquierdo Bouldstridge

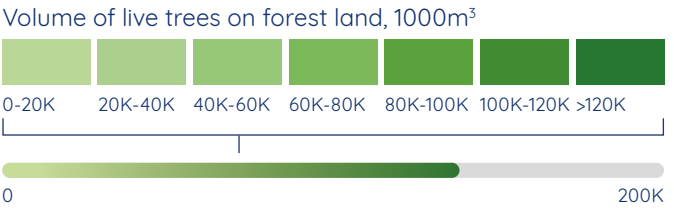
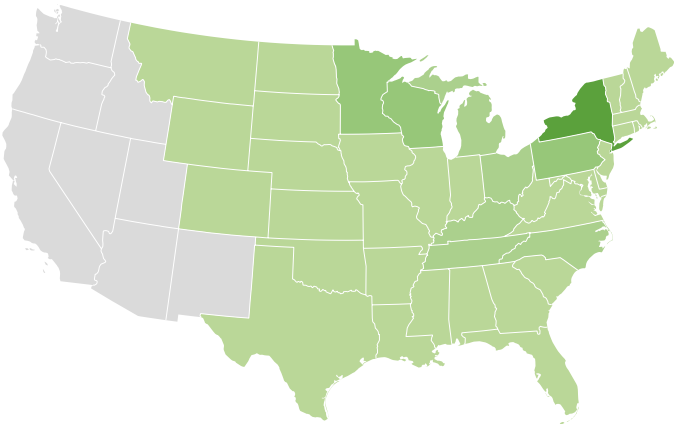


Thermally modified American ash decking at Grays Inn Road

MATERIAL AVAILABILITY

- Ash from the USA is readily available as sawn lumber and veneer, in a wide range of grades and sizes. In the north the sapwood tends to be less due to the shorter growing season, than in the south where the wood is grown faster with more open grain and texture. Ash may be sold on the basis of colour and is widely available for export, although its long term availability will be affected by the impact of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) infestation.
- Ash lumber is available in a range of grades from 4/4" (1" or 25.4mm) through to 8/4" (2" or 50.8mm) although limited volumes of 10/4" (2.5" or 63.5mm) and 12/4" (3" or 76.2mm) can be sourced.

FOREST VOLUME



FOREST DISTRIBUTION

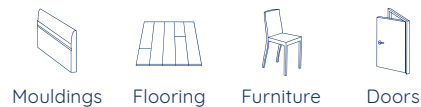
American ash trees grow commonly throughout the eastern United States in mixed hardwood forests, from the north in New York State to the southern States along the Gulf of Mexico, and everywhere in between. They grow high in the mountains and low on the plains and coastal areas giving rise to great variety of character. With such widespread distribution in latitude, climate and soil conditions, there are significant variations in ash depending on location, in particular between the slower grown northern and faster grown southern trees. There are also sub-species that add to this variety. Despite some longer-term threats by forest pests and disease to the ash standing stock of timber, ash is a prolific species. More information about the mechanical properties of ash and its structural potential can be found at [americanhardwood.org](http://americanhardwood.org).

PERFORMANCE

Ash lumber machines well, with good performance in nailing, screwing, gluing and can be stained and polished to a very good finish. Black stained ash has experienced several successful fashion cycles in furniture. The wood dries fairly easily with minimal degrade. With good stability there is not much movement in performance. Ash veneer laminates well to board materials. Ash is not resistant to heartwood decay and the heartwood is moderately resistant to preservative treatment, but the sapwood is permeable. This makes ash very suitable for being thermally modified, as has now been proven through its widespread use for decking, cladding, worktops and garden furniture.

MAIN USES

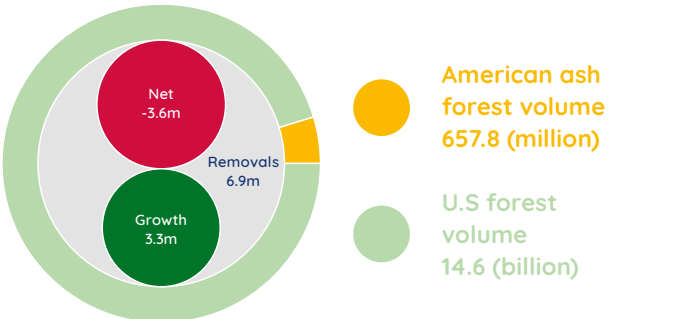
This sustainably managed wood from natural forests of North America, with its excellent environmental credentials, is popular with designers, architects, specialist users and consumers around the world. Its main uses are furniture, flooring, doors, architectural joinery and mouldings, kitchen cabinets, tool and sport handles.



FOREST GROWTH

Forest Inventory Analysis (FIA) data shows U.S. ash growing stock is 657.8 million m<sup>3</sup>, 4.5% of total U.S. hardwood growing stock. American ash is growing 3.3 million m<sup>3</sup> per year while the harvest is 6.9 million m<sup>3</sup> per year. Net volume (after harvest) is increasing -3.6 million m<sup>3</sup> each year. The 2014 inventory indicates that U.S. ash growth exceeds harvest in all major supplying states except Michigan and Ohio, which are central to the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) infestation. Ash mortality rates and removals are expected to rise in the immediate future, likely in excess of growth in some states, due to the EAB infestation.

GROWTH AND REMOVALS, MILLION M<sup>3</sup>





# MAGGIE'S, OLDHAM

CASE STUDY

Maggie's Cancer Care Centre in Oldham, UK is the world's first building made from hardwood cross-laminated timber (CLT). The centre, designed by dRMM Architects, using American tulipwood CLT and thermally modified tulipwood cladding, was a pivotal moment for timber in modern architecture and construction.

Maggie's is a charity that provides practical and emotional support to people living with cancer following the new ideology of cancer care laid out by Maggie Keswick Jencks. Built on the grounds of specialist NHS cancer hospitals, Maggie's Centres are warm and welcoming places with qualified professionals on hand to offer a programme of support shown to improve physical and emotional wellbeing.

dRMM is a London-based studio of architects and designers, founded in 1995 by Alex de Rijke, Philip Marsh and Sadie Morgan. Since 2000 dRMM has pioneered the use of engineered timber as the most relevant material for 21st century architecture. The studio co-invented tulipwood CLT, alongside AHEC and Arup engineers, in 2013 for use in the ground-breaking structure, *Endless Stair*.



This pioneering piece of permanent architecture is constructed from more than 20 panels of five layer cross-laminated American tulipwood, ranging in size from 0.5m – 12m long. The centre stands atop 4m steel legs on concrete pads within Royal Oldham Hospital grounds. Its garden slopes down before and panoramic vistas stretch to the Pennines.

The curve of the interior CLT walls hug the contours of the glass and poured resin floors reinforce the sense of flow. The slatted ceiling in the flat-roofed structure is also American tulipwood, made from leftover wood from the CLT fabrication process, ensuring minimal waste.







The Centre breaks further new ground by featuring thermally treated (TMT) – the first time that TMT tulipwood has been used to clad an entire structure in the UK.

dRMM chose tulipwood for the design of Maggie's Oldham for the positive influence wood has on people and for the beauty, strength and warmth inherent to American tulipwood.

*"In wood there is hope, humanity, scale, warmth, and nature's clever plan to absorb carbon. Wood is a non-toxic, versatile, benign, anti-carcinogenic material. Maggie's Oldham has a built-in, very visible holistic design message that supports the central aims of the design – to uplift and offer hope to people affected by cancer. The applications for sustainably grown hardwood, particularly fast growing tulipwood CLT is endless."* – Professor Alex De Rijke, Founding Director, dRMM Architects.

The finished building is thoughtful, holistic, therapeutic, warm and filled with surprises, – even the smallest detail has been carefully considered and chosen to improve the patient's wellbeing.

The main kitchen table, which visitors are encouraged to sit around, is a design by Barnby Day that was commissioned by Alex de Rijke and AHEC for The Wish List for London Design Festival 2014. A second table was made by the craftsmen at Benchmark Furniture using recycled tulipwood CLT from the off-cuts from the windows and doors from Maggie's Oldham.

American white oak replaces the cold metal, traditionally used for door handles and support rails, that can be harsh on sensitive skin caused by chemotherapy treatment.

Outside, thermally modified American ash decking is covered by the roof's canopy, American tulipwood, to offer shelter for those with light sensitive skin from radiotherapy, without detracting from the tranquil views over the hospital's gardens.





# AMERICAN WHITE OAK

**LATIN NAME**  
*Quercus species, principally Quercus alba*

**OTHER COMMON NAMES**  
northern white oak, southern white oak

American white oak is one of the most popular species from the U.S. hardwood forests in export markets – and is unique to North America.

- WOOD DESCRIPTION**
- White oaks have an attractive grain, similar to many other oaks grown globally. In general the sapwood of white oak is whitish to light brown and the heartwood is normally light to mid or even dark brown. The difference between the sapwood and heartwood of white oak is less distinct than in red oak. The wood of white oaks is mainly straight-grained with medium to coarse texture.
  - The wood is figured with medullary rays – a feature of all true (*Quercus*) oaks – and these in white oak are longer than those of red oak; thus producing a more pronounced figure. The heartwood wood is not porous, so is suitable for wine barrels and exterior use.

1.57  
seconds

**REGENERATION RATE**  
It takes 1.57 seconds to grow 1m³ of American white oak

The replacement rate is calculated from total U.S. annual increment of the specified hardwood species derived from the U.S. Forest Service Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program and assumes that 2m³ of logs is harvested to produce 1m³ of lumber (i.e. 50% conversion efficiency). The rapid rate of replacement is due to the very large volume of hardwood trees in U.S. forest.



Heydar Aliyev International Airport by Autoban

**MECHANICAL PROPERTIES**  
American white oaks have excellent overall strength properties relative to weight, making them a preferred hardwood species for structural applications. The wood is hard and relatively heavy with good bending strength and compression strength but lower in stiffness. Structural testing carried out in Europe confirms that the white oak has greater inherent fibre strength than European oak. It has excellent steam bending capability. Being hard, stable when dry and easy to finish and stain, it is highly popular for furniture and flooring, especially in export markets.

More information about the mechanical properties of white oak and its structural potential can be found at [americanhardwood.org](http://americanhardwood.org)

<b>0.68</b> Specific gravity (12% M.C.)	<b>12,273 MPa</b> Modulus of elasticity
<b>769 kg/m³</b> Average weight (12% M.C.)	<b>51.299 MPa</b> Compressive strength (parallel to grain)
<b>12.6%</b> Average volume shrinkage (Green to 6% M.C.)	<b>6,049 N</b> Hardness
<b>104.804 MPa</b> Modulus of rupture	<b>D50</b> Structural Eurocode 5 design value

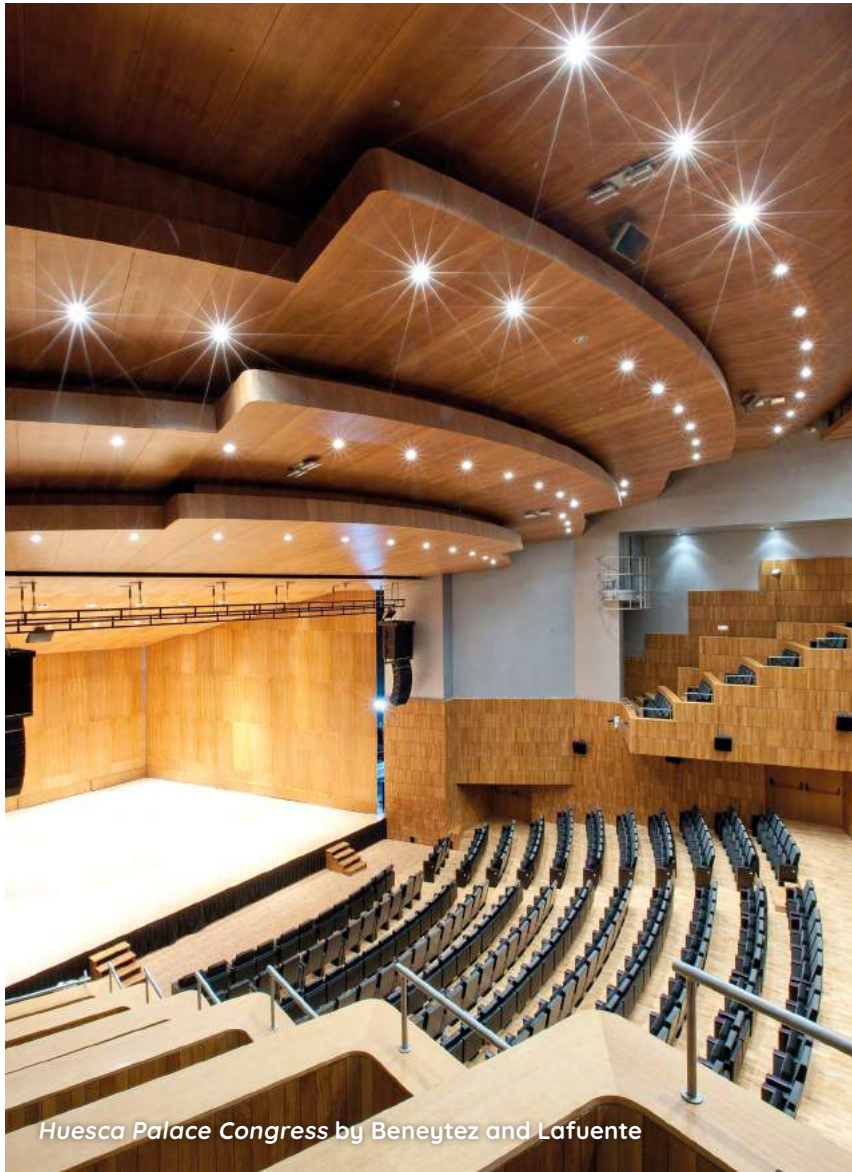




Ves-el by Gareth Neal for Zaha Hadid as part of *The Wish List*



Church Crescent by Evanort Architects



Huesca Palace Congress by Beneytez and Lafuente

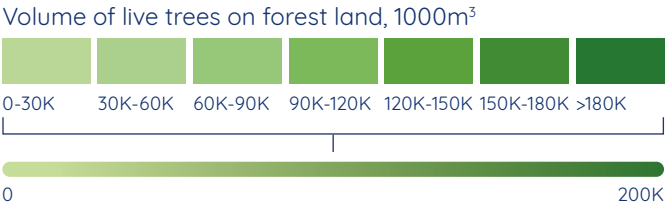
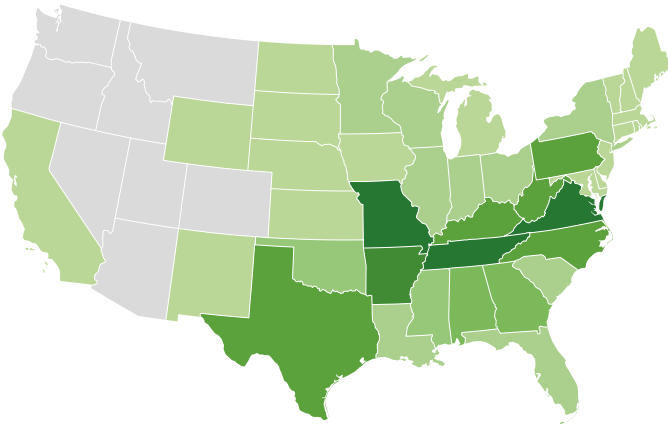


The Living Staircase by Paul Cocksedge Studio

### MATERIAL AVAILABILITY

White oak from the USA is readily available as sawn lumber and veneer, in a wide range of grades and sizes. Due to lengthy drying times not all suppliers offer thicker lumber stock (10/4" & 12/4") but it is available in limited volumes. In the north the sapwood tends to be less than in the south where, due to the shorter growing season, the wood is grown faster with more open grain and texture. White oak may be sold on the basis of 'northern' and 'southern', but this may be an over-simplification of the differences according to growing location.

### FOREST VOLUME



### FOREST DISTRIBUTION

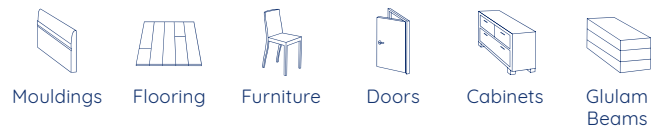
White oak trees grow exclusively in North America and are widely distributed throughout most of the eastern United States in mixed hardwood forests. As with red oak there are many sub-species, all within the white oak classification, and together all the oaks form the most common species group accounting for about 33% of the American hardwood resource. The trees are tall and easily identified by their rounded leaf form, turning brown in the fall. White oaks also grow from north to south; some high in the mountains and others on low land giving rise to different characteristics. Thus there are significant variations in white oaks depending on location, in particular between the slower grown northern and faster grown southern trees. As with red oaks, they are regarded as very sustainable for both domestic and export consumption.

### PERFORMANCE

- White oak lumber machines well, with good performance in nailing and screwing, although pre-boring is recommended. It glues well (although the inclusion of primers are recommended for structural gluing) and can be stained and polished to a very good finish. The wood has to be dried slowly and carefully to avoid degrade and it has high differential radial and tangential shrinkage so can be susceptible to movement in performance in humid conditions. It has excellent drilling and finishing properties.
- The heartwood is resistant to decay and resistant to preservative treatment.

### MAIN USES

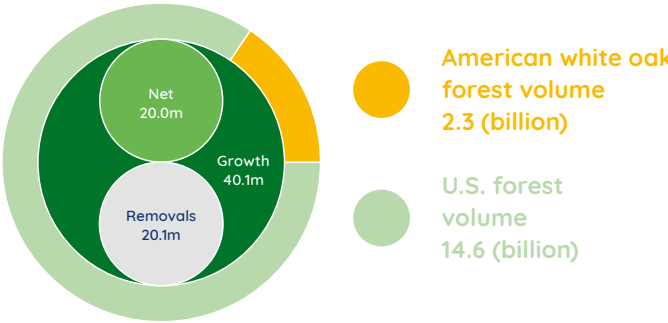
This sustainably managed wood from natural forests of North America, with excellent environmental credentials, is a key species in many export markets. Its main uses are in furniture, flooring, doors, architectural joinery and mouldings and kitchen cabinets. It is also used in certain applications for construction, including structural glue-laminated beams, and other specialist applications.



### FOREST GROWTH

FIA data shows U.S. white oak growing stock is 2.26 billion m<sup>3</sup>, 15.5% of total U.S. hardwood growing stock. American white oak is growing 40.1 million m<sup>3</sup> per year while the harvest is 20.1 million m<sup>3</sup> per year. The net volume (after harvest) is increasing 20.0 million m<sup>3</sup> each year. U.S. white oak growth exceeds harvest in all major supplying states.

### GROWTH AND REMOVALS, MILLION M<sup>3</sup>





# LORDS WARNER STAND

## CASE STUDY



The Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) commissioned architects Populous to design the new Warner Stand at one of the world's most iconic sporting facilities, Lord's Cricket Ground in St John's Wood, London.

The roof of the stand is formed from 11 cantilevered glue laminated (glulam) American white oak beams that radiate dramatically from the corner of the Ground, paving the way for brave new structural uses of sustainable American hardwoods.

Each beam measures 900mm x 350mm at the deepest point. The longest glulam beam weighs approximately 4 tonnes and measures 23.4 metres in length, the same as 26 cricket bats lined up nose to tail. It was the first time white oak had been employed in this format on this scale and in such a performance critical environment – forming the primary structure of a roof projecting out over 2,674 spectators.



*"Natural wood and cricket cannot be separated. The use of willow for cricket bats and ash for the stumps is as much part of the game as the leather balls, the state of the pitch and of course the weather. Populous chose to specify American white oak because it can be finely crafted, possesses a beautiful golden colour, and is immensely strong. These characterful qualities make it the perfect choice for the structure of a new canopy roof at Lord's," said Philip Johnson, Senior Principal at Populous, and Project Director.*



# AMERICAN SOFT MAPLE

Soft maple, growing naturally in the hardwood forests of North America, is one of the most prolific and sustainable species, similar to hard maple but slightly softer in impact hardness.

## WOOD DESCRIPTION

- Soft maples are somewhat like hard maple, but much more variable in colour, especially from one region to another. The sapwood of soft maple is normally greyish white but can be darker, with pith flecks as a natural characteristic. The heartwood of soft maple varies in colour from light to dark reddish brown. The difference between sap and heartwood is greater than in hard maple.
- The wood of soft maple is generally straight grained with fine texture, with a grain pattern similar to American cherry. Soft maple can be stained as a cherry substitute.

## MATERIAL AVAILABILITY

Soft maple from the USA is widely available as sawn lumber in a range of sizes and grades, but rarely as veneer. The lumber is normally sold unselected for colour. West coast production is usually sold surfaced and graded from the better side, in a departure from standard NHLA Grading Rules.



Daybed by Wiid Design Studio

## LATIN NAME

*Acer rubrum*, *Acer macrophyllum*

## OTHER COMMON NAMES

red maple, big leaf maple

## FOREST DISTRIBUTION

American soft maples grow widely across the eastern USA in mixed hardwood forests with more red maple in the northeast and silver maple concentrated in the mid and southern states. The name can be misleading as soft maple is not technically very soft. There are a significant number of sub-species – all sold as soft maple. Several, including Pacific coast/big leaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*), grow in the northwest USA, for which there are specific grading rules that apply.

## PERFORMANCE

- Soft maple lumber is excellent to machine, bore, plane and finish. It turns, glues, planes, drills and carves well but screwing and nailing is only fair. It produces good mouldings. Soft maple can easily be sanded, stained and polished to a fine and smooth finish, and has good steam bending properties. It is regarded as a substitute for cherry when stained. Its mechanical properties and performance also make it a substitute for beech.
- The wood is non-resistant to decay and the heartwood is moderately resistant to preservative treatment. The sapwood is permeable.

## MAIN USES

This highly sustainable, managed hardwood from natural forests of North America, with excellent environmental credentials, is considered where hardness and hardwearing properties may not be essential. It is used in furniture, cabinet making and joinery as well as doors, kitchen cabinets and for turning and mouldings.



# 1.73

seconds

## REGENERATION RATE

It takes **1.73 seconds** to grow 1m<sup>3</sup> of American soft maple

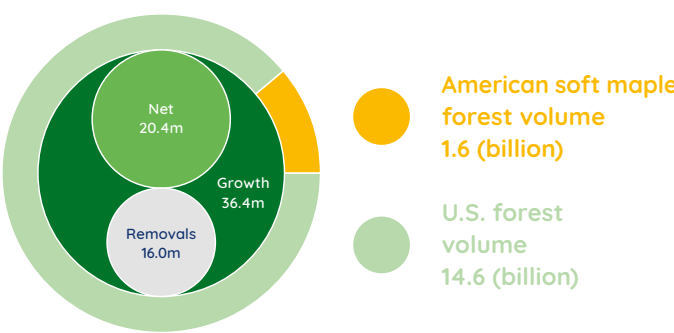
The replacement rate is calculated from total U.S. annual increment of the specified hardwood species derived from the U.S. Forest Service Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program and assumes that 2m<sup>3</sup> of logs is harvested to produce 1m<sup>3</sup> of lumber (i.e. 50% conversion efficiency). The rapid rate of replacement is due to the very large volume of hardwood trees in U.S. forest.



## FOREST GROWTH

FIA data shows U.S. soft maple growing stock is 1.62 billion m<sup>3</sup>, 11.1% of total U.S. hardwood growing stock. American soft maple is growing 36.4 million m<sup>3</sup> per year while the harvest is 16.0 million m<sup>3</sup> per year. The net volume (after harvest) is increasing 20.4 million m<sup>3</sup> each year. U.S. soft maple growth exceeds harvest in all the main producing states.

## GROWTH AND REMOVALS, MILLION M<sup>3</sup>



## MECHANICAL PROPERTIES

Soft maple has good bending and crushing strength, but is low in stiffness and shock resistance. It is about 25% less hard than hard maple. Accordingly it is not recommended for flooring or work tops.

### Acer rubrum

0.54	11,308 MPa
Specific gravity (12% M.C.)	Modulus of elasticity
609 kg/m <sup>3</sup>	45.093 MPa
Average weight (12% M.C.)	Compressive strength (parallel to grain)
10.5%	4,226 N
Average volume shrinkage (Green to 6% M.C.)	Hardness
92.393 MPa	
Modulus of rupture	

### Acer macrophyllum

0.48	9,998 MPa
Specific gravity (12% M.C.)	Modulus of elasticity
545 kg/m <sup>3</sup>	41.025 MPa
Average weight (12% M.C.)	Compressive strength (parallel to grain)
9.3%	3,781 N
Average volume shrinkage (Green to 6% M.C.)	Hardness
73.777 MPa	
Modulus of rupture	



# AMERICAN HARD MAPLE

LATIN NAME  
*Acer saccharum*

OTHER COMMON NAMES  
sugar maple, rock maple, black maple

American hard maple, growing naturally in the hardwood forests of North America, is world-renowned for its delicate colour, hardness, fine grain and finishing quality.

## WOOD DESCRIPTION

- The sapwood of hard maple is normally creamy white but can show a slight reddish/brown tinge. White sapwood lumber can be selected and veneer is always selected. The heartwood of hard maple varies in colour from light to dark reddish brown and may also vary according to region. The difference between heart and sap colour may only be slight. Both may contain pith fleck as a natural characteristic.
- The wood of hard maple has a close fine texture and is generally straight grained. Hard maple can occur as 'curly', 'fiddleback' and 'birds eye' figure which is highly prized. The wood darkens on exposure to light with time.

3.31  
seconds

## REGENERATION RATE

It takes 3.31 seconds to grow 1m³ of American hard maple

The replacement rate is calculated from total U.S. annual increment of the specified hardwood species derived from the U.S. Forest Service Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program and assumes that 2m³ of logs is harvested to produce 1m³ of lumber (i.e. 50% conversion efficiency). The rapid rate of replacement is due to the very large volume of hardwood trees in U.S. forest.



Nordic Pioneer by Maria Bruun as part of Connected

## MECHANICAL PROPERTIES

Hard maple is hard, as the name suggests, and is heavy with good strength properties. It has high resistance to abrasion and wear as well as good steam bending properties. Accordingly, it is a preferred species for flooring, including sports floors, bowling alleys and worktops.

\*Values for *Acer saccharum*

0.63  
Specific gravity (12% M.C.)

705 kg/m³  
Average weight (12% M.C.)

11.9%  
Average volume shrinkage  
(Green to 6% M.C.)

108.941 MPa  
Modulus of rupture

12,618 MPa  
Modulus of elasticity

53.988 MPa  
Compressive strength  
(parallel to grain)

6,450 N  
Hardness





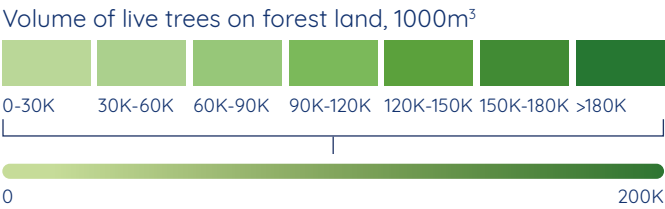
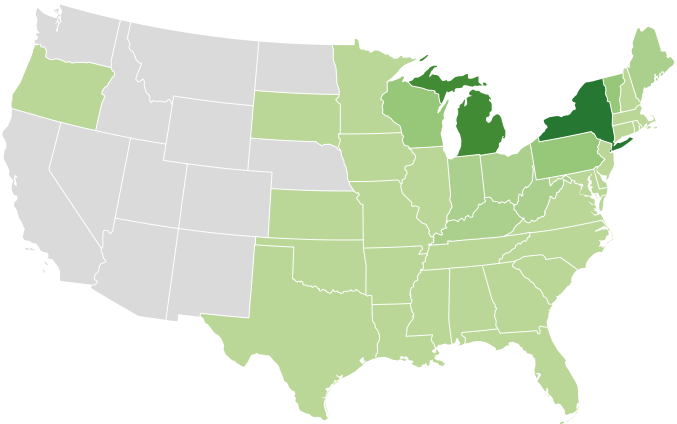
Hunters roots Café by Kitayama K Architects

MATERIAL AVAILABILITY

Hard maple from the USA is readily available as sawn lumber in a range of grades and sizes and as veneer. Lumber is regularly produced in 4/4" through to 8/4" but limited as thicker stock.

The lumber may be sold according to (white) colour selection, for which a premium is normally charged. This is usually done using the NHLA grading standard for colour sorting, producing colour grades such as "1&2 white". Consultation with suppliers is recommended.

FOREST VOLUME



FOREST DISTRIBUTION

American hard maple is a cold climate species although, trees can grow throughout the USA in mixed hardwood forests but favour the more northern states. The species is quite different from other maples throughout the world. The trees often grow in dense stands on many types of soil and are also farmed for their famous maple syrup. Harvesting the trees is seasonal (autumn and winter).

PERFORMANCE

- Hard maple lumber is excellent to machine, bore, turn and finish. It glues, planes, drills and carves well but screwing and nailing is only fair. It produces good mouldings. Hard maple can easily be sanded, stained and polished to a very fine and smooth finish.
- The heartwood is only slightly or non-resistant to decay and the heartwood is resistant to preservative treatment. The sapwood is permeable.

MAIN USES

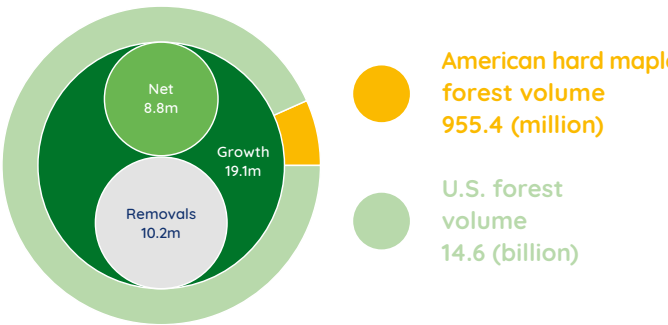
This sustainably managed wood from natural forests of North America, with excellent environmental credentials, is revered worldwide for its hard-wearing property, delicate light colour and fine finish. It is highly suitable for all types of flooring, including high traffic areas such as public buildings, furniture, cabinet making and high-class joinery. It is widely used for table and work tops, mouldings, and kitchen cabinets.



FOREST GROWTH

FIA data shows U.S. hard maple growing stock is 955.4 million m³, 6.5% of total U.S. hardwood growing stock. American hard maple is growing 19.1 million m³ per year while the harvest is 10.2 million m³ per year. Net volume (after harvest) is increasing 8.9 million m³ each year. U.S. hard maple growth exceeds harvest in all major supplying states except Maine. In Maine maple harvests have been high relative to growth, mainly due to increased extraction for pulpwood and bioenergy supplies, and because maple-dominated hardwood forests are slowly being replaced by softwood forest types.

GROWTH AND REMOVALS, MILLION M³



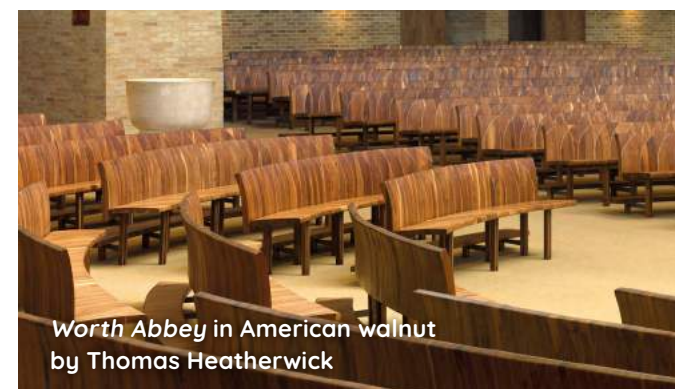


# ARCHITECTURAL INTERIORS

*“Timber, such as tulipwood, brings a sense of calm and being amongst nature when surrounded by it.” – Sir David Adjaye OBE*



*Sclera in American tulipwood by David Adjaye Architects*



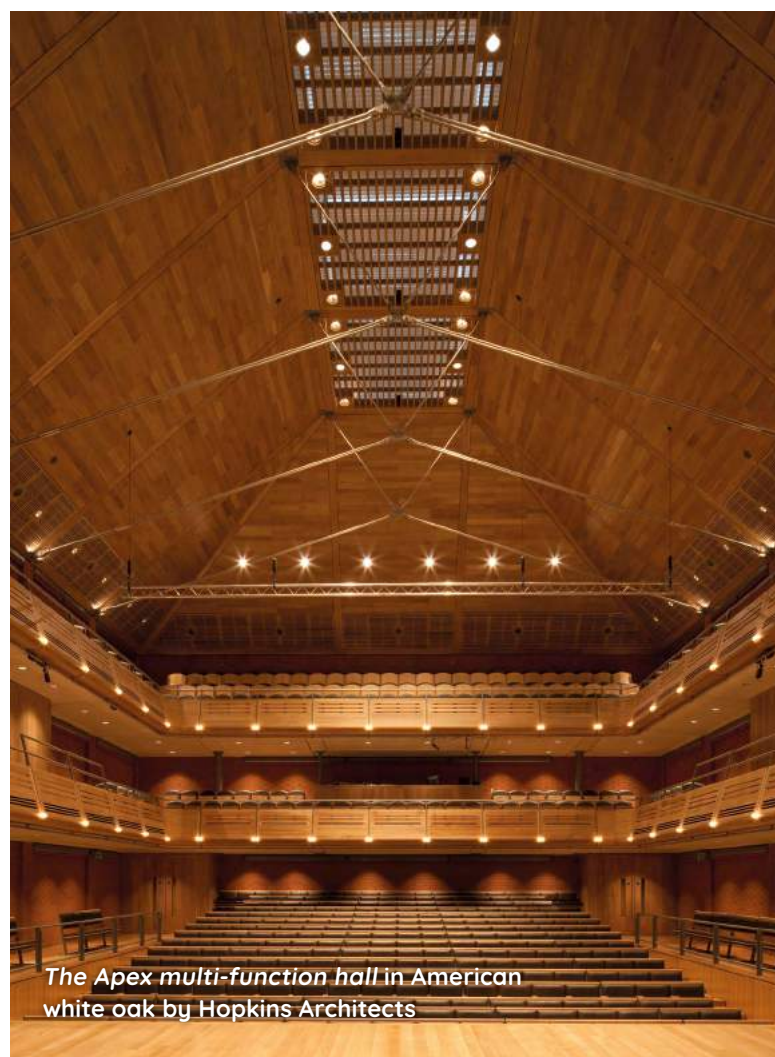
*Worth Abbey in American walnut by Thomas Heatherwick*



*Caroline's Place in American cherry by Amin Taha Architects*



*Mechelen Museum in American white oak by dmva Architects*



*The Apex multi-function hall in American white oak by Hopkins Architects*



*Tsi Ming Temple in American hard maple by Archoffice Architects*



*Essay 4 in American red oak by Mandana Architects*



# AMERICAN WALNUT

LATIN NAME

*Juglans nigra*

OTHER COMMON NAMES

black walnut

American walnut is one of the most sought-after species in markets across the world and is unique to North America.

WOOD DESCRIPTION

- The sapwood of walnut is creamy white, whereas the heartwood is light brown to dark chocolate brown, making the difference in colour quite distinct. Occasionally the heartwood has dark, even purple, streaks. The wood of walnut is generally straight grained, although sometimes with wavy or curly grain that produces its characteristic and attractive figure, sought after by designers.
- American walnut is a different species to European walnut, which tends to be lighter in colour.

13.09

seconds

REGENERATION RATE

It takes 13.09 seconds to grow 1m³ of American walnut

The replacement rate is calculated from total U.S. annual increment of the specified hardwood species derived from the U.S. Forest Service Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program and assumes that 2m³ of logs is harvested to produce 1m³ of lumber (i.e. 50% conversion efficiency). The rate of replacement is due to the volume of hardwood trees in U.S. forest.



Linbury Theatre, The Royal Opera House, by Stanton Williams

MECHANICAL PROPERTIES

Walnut is tough, hard and of medium density. It has moderate bending and crushing strengths and is low in stiffness. It has good steam bending classification.

0.55  
Specific gravity (12% M.C.)

609 kg/m³  
Average weight (12% M.C.)

10.2%  
Average volume shrinkage  
(Green to 6% M.C.)

100.677 MPa  
Modulus of rupture

11,584 MPa  
Modulus of elasticity

52.264 MPa  
Compressive strength  
(parallel to grain)

4,492 N  
Hardness





OVO furniture range by Foster + Partners, crafted by Benchmark Furniture



Zayed University Library by Hadi Teherani

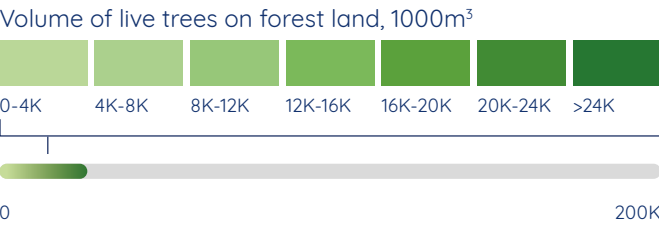
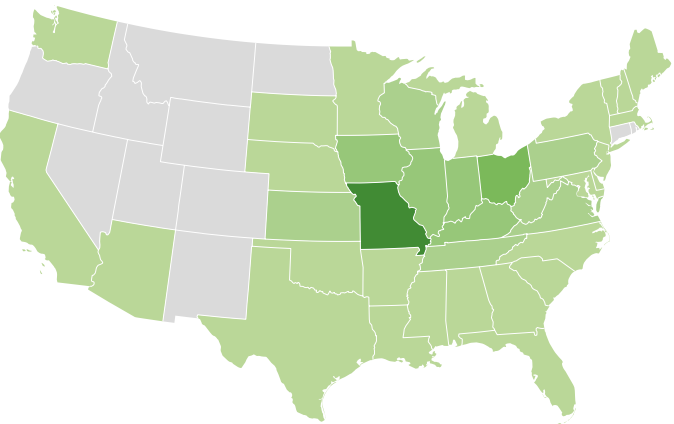


The Lantern by Fraher Architects

## MATERIAL AVAILABILITY

Walnut from the USA is available as sawn lumber and as veneer. The lumber is generally sold un-steamed and unselected for colour. Specialist producers may offer steamed walnut intended to darken the sapwood and thus reduce the colour difference between heartwood and sapwood. Recent years have seen huge global demand for this species. NHLA Grading Rules are modified for walnut, allowing smaller specifications and smaller clear cuttings. Sapwood is admitted without limit. Consultation with suppliers is recommended.

## FOREST VOLUME



## FOREST DISTRIBUTION

American walnut trees grow very widely across the eastern USA in mixed hardwood forests and on farms, concentrated in central states but spread from Texas to the eastern seaboard. The trees are one of the few hardwood species planted as well as regenerating naturally. They grow relatively tall and straight with few lower branches, which limits the occurrence of knots in the lumber.

## PERFORMANCE

- American walnut works easily with hand and machine tools. It has excellent planing, turning and moulding properties. It has good nailing and gluing properties and can be stained and polished to an excellent finish. The wood dries slowly and has good dimensional stability when dry.
- The wood is rated as very resistant to heartwood decay and is one of the most durable (decay resistant) American hardwoods.

## MAIN USES

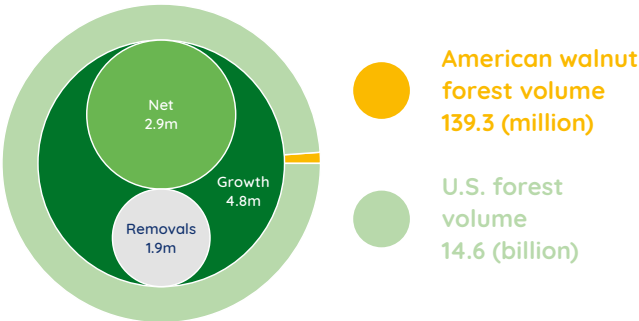
Walnut is considered one of the supreme species for high end furniture, cabinets, doors and interior joinery. It is used for flooring and panelling and sometimes to contrast with other lighter colour hardwoods.



## FOREST GROWTH

FIA data shows U.S. walnut growing stock is 139.3 million m<sup>3</sup>, 1.0% of total U.S. hardwood growing stock. American walnut is growing 4.8 million m<sup>3</sup> per year while the harvest is 1.9 million m<sup>3</sup> per year. The net volume (after harvest) is increasing 2.9 million m<sup>3</sup> each year. U.S. walnut growth exceeds harvest in all major supplying states except Michigan.

## GROWTH AND REMOVALS, MILLION M<sup>3</sup>





## Thermal Modification of American Hardwoods

Thermally Modified Timber (TMT) is not a new concept. The ancient Vikings knew that when building defensive fencing for fortifications, poles made from timber with a burnt surface lasted longer than those that hadn't. More modern studies on possible benefits of TMT began in the 1930s and '40s in Europe and the USA but the technology was not developed commercially. It wasn't until the late 1990s that Scandinavia first introduced the commercial method of thermal modification that we recognise today, as a way of improving the durability and stability of native softwoods. More recent experimental and development work has shown that the thermal modification process works extremely well with some North American hardwood species. Commercial TMT kilns were first introduced into North America in the mid 2000s.

The TMT process is essentially a high intensity kiln schedule that lasts between 3 to 4 days depending on species and dimension of timber. The temperature reaches between 180 and 215 degrees C depending on the level of durability required. The process requires an inert atmosphere devoid of oxygen to prevent combustion, this is usually either steam or a vacuum. During the process, the chemical and physical properties of the timber undergo permanent change.

The two most beneficial effects of the TMT process are to dramatically improve the stability and also the durability of timber species that have an inherently low natural durability, such as ash and tulipwood. After the process, the moisture content is lowered to around 4 – 6%, the equilibrium moisture content is permanently reduced which means that thermally modified timber is less affected by atmospheric changes in humidity, reducing the ability of the timber to absorb moisture, and so greatly improving its stability properties.

The durability is improved by removing the hemicelluloses and carbohydrates from the wood which are the main food sources for wood-destroying fungi. Independent durability testing conducted at CATAS in Italy has shown that the durability of four North American hardwood species, ash, tulipwood, soft maple, and quarter sawn red oak, can be improved by thermal modification to achieve durability rating class 1 (very durable) according to EN 350:2016. This is the highest rating possible and equal to that of tropical timber species such as Ipe. This now means that these species can be used for exterior applications such as cladding, decking and exterior products such as garden furniture.



*Paul's shed by Nathalie de Leval for Paul Smith, made with TMT ash as part of The Wish List*

Other benefits include a reduction in thermal conductivity by around 20 – 25% compared to its untreated state, a significant benefit for window manufacturers. It also appears to improve the surface hardness of some species although more research is needed to fully quantify which species and by how much.

The other characteristic of TMT is a change in appearance leading to darker colour tones, the degree to which the timber darkens is influenced by temperature and species. AHEC experimental projects with designers and architects have shown that thermally modified American hardwoods machine extremely well, producing high quality smooth finishes that often don't require further finishing.

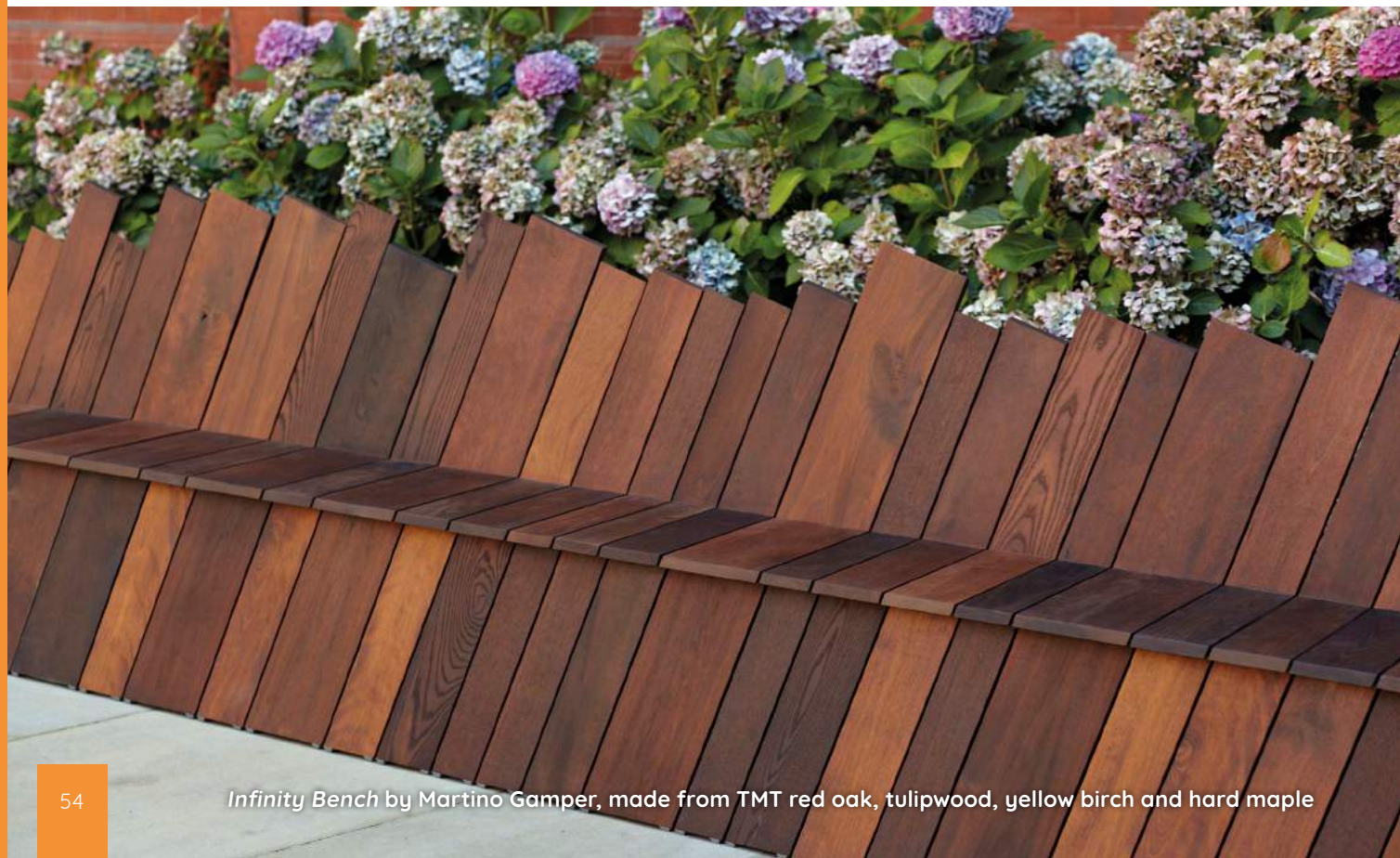
Thermally modified American hardwoods now offer a real alternative to traditional preservative treated timber for most external applications. There are no special handling precautions required with TMT and there are no environmental issues associated with wood disposal, or issues of leaching of chemicals whilst the timber is in service. Another important factor is that when using American hardwoods markets can be assured of their sustainability and legality credentials.



*Machined sections of thermally modified timber*

Although the thermal modification process has been shown to impact on some aspects of timber strength, such as bending, it should be noted that many hardwoods are inherently stronger than most softwoods traditionally used for construction. However, until more data is available, their use for major structural applications is not recommended. But AHEC projects demonstrate that successful engineering of TMT American hardwoods by finger jointing and glue lamination is still possible. As a general rule, the thermal modification process is not suitable for thicknesses of lumber over 50mm.

There are now around 120 commercial TMT operations worldwide, nearly 100 of which are in Europe and about 10 in the U.S.A and some in Asia. Thermally modified American hardwoods can be sourced from a number of specialist producers and exporters in the USA as well as from treatment companies in Europe, and elsewhere.



*Infinity Bench by Martino Gamper, made from TMT red oak, tulipwood, yellow birch and hard maple*



# AMERICAN HICKORY & AMERICAN PECAN

American hickory and pecan are different species of a very diverse group, but in the round (log) they are virtually indistinguishable from each other and therefore often processed by saw mills and the lumber sold mixed together.

## MATERIAL AVAILABILITY

Hickory and pecan sawn lumber is readily available in export grades, but sold unselected for colour and mixed. The NHLA FAS grade permits a minimum width of 4 inches (101.6mm). The lower NHLA grades (1 & 2 Common) can produce an attractive and fashionable rustic look. Lumber is mainly produced in thinner stock (4/4" & 5/4") although a limited amount of thicker material may be available.

## FOREST DISTRIBUTION

The hickories are an important group and the trees grow naturally throughout the Eastern U.S., from north to south. They are split into two groups; the more important true hickories and hickories producing pecan nuts, the latter being an important fruit-bearing tree. Fruit-bearing pecan trees grow naturally in the south eastern USA and principally in the Mississippi valley. Trees vary in size enormously.



American hickory flooring

## WOOD DESCRIPTION

The wood of hickory and pecan varies greatly in colour, grain pattern and appearance from this very diverse group. Hickory tends to be fine textured, pecan is coarser, and the grain is usually straight but can be wavy or irregular. The sapwood is white and maybe tinged with brown, while the heartwood is pale to yellow brown to dark in colour. Deep purple mineral streaks are a natural characteristic. Bird pecks are also a common characteristic and neither is considered a defect.

## PERFORMANCE

- Hickory is considered difficult to machine and glue. Pecan is considered easier to machine but both are very hard to work with hand tools. They will hold nails and screws well but tends to split so pre-boring is advised. The wood can be sanded, stained and polished to a good finish. It can be readily dried but has fairly high shrinkage, which may affect stability under variable moisture conditions and in wider width material.
- The wood is non-resistant to heartwood decay and classed as moderately resistant to preservative treatment.

## MAIN USES

Furniture, cabinetry, ladders, striking tool handles dowels and sporting goods. Traditionally used by wheelwrights and for making drumsticks. The hardwearing properties of hickory make it an excellent choice for flooring, especially in situations of high traffic use. Historically the first wooden golf club shafts were made from hickory, and NHLA lumber graders still use the traditional flexible hickory measuring stick.



## American hickory

### LATIN NAME

*Carya species*



## FOREST GROWTH

FIA data shows U.S. hickory growing stock is 742.3 million m<sup>3</sup>, 5.1% of total U.S. hardwood growing stock. American hickory is growing 14.6 million m<sup>3</sup> per year while the harvest is 6.0 million m<sup>3</sup> per year. The net volume (after harvest) is increasing 8.6 million m<sup>3</sup> each year. U.S. hickory growth exceeds harvest in all significant producing states with the exception of Louisiana.

### MECHANICAL PROPERTIES

The wood of hickories is rather coarse and varies from strong to less strong but is heavy and very hard. It has good bending strength, shock resistance and excellent steam bending properties.

### Carya glabra

0.75	15,583 MPa
Specific gravity (12% M.C.)	Modulus of elasticity
833 kg/m <sup>3</sup>	63.365 MPa
Average weight (12% M.C.)	Compressive strength (parallel to grain)
14.3%	N/A
Average volume shrinkage (Green to 6% M.C.)	Hardness
138.590 MPa	
Modulus of rupture	

## American pecan

### LATIN NAME

*Carya species*



## FOREST GROWTH

FIA data shows U.S. pecan growing stock is 46.8 million m<sup>3</sup>, 0.3% of total U.S. hardwood growing stock. American pecan is growing 931,000 m<sup>3</sup> per year while the harvest is 355,000 m<sup>3</sup> per year. The net volume (after harvest) is increasing 576,000 m<sup>3</sup> each year. U.S. pecan growth considerably exceeds harvest in the four main producing states of Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi.

### MECHANICAL PROPERTIES

The wood of pecan is usually considered very strong with excellent stem bending classification, high crushing strength, high stiffness and very high shock resistance.

### Carya illinoensis

0.66	11,928 MPa
Specific gravity (12% M.C.)	Modulus of elasticity
737 kg/m <sup>3</sup>	54.126 MPa
Average weight (12% M.C.)	Compressive strength (parallel to grain)
N/A	8,095 N
Average volume shrinkage (Green to 6% M.C.)	Hardness
94.462 MPa	
Modulus of rupture	



# AMERICAN ELM

American elm is a survivor of the Dutch elm disease which devastated elm populations elsewhere in the world.

## MATERIAL AVAILABILITY

Elm from the USA is available in very limited commercial volumes and sawn lumber is produced mainly in 4/4" (25.4mm) thickness. As a result, specifications and grades for export may be difficult to source on a regular basis. Veneer may also be available from specialist suppliers.

## FOREST DISTRIBUTION

American red elm trees are now naturally regenerating in some regions making supplies patchy. Distribution is widespread but trees are greatly influenced by site conditions. Trees are relatively small, often with divided trunks.

## WOOD DESCRIPTION

The close grain red elm may be straight or severely interlocked, with a coarse texture. The narrow sap is greyish white to light brown and the heartwood is light to dark brown in colour. Bird pecks are found in elm and are regarded as a natural characteristic and not considered a defect under NHLA Grading Rules.



## LATIN NAME

*Ulmus rubra*

## OTHER COMMON NAMES

slippery elm, brown elm, grey elm, red elm

## PERFORMANCE

- Elm machines fairly well and it nails and screws easily. It glues well and can be sanded, stained and polished to a good finish. It dries well with minimum degrade and has little movement in performance.
- The wood is rated non-resistant to heartwood decay but is classed as permeable to preservatives.

## MAIN USES

American elm, when it is available, is an attractive and desirable species for furniture and cabinet making and can also be used for internal joinery, flooring and panelling.



Flooring



Furniture



Panelling



Cabinets

## FOREST GROWTH

FIA data shows U.S. elm growing stock is 297.6 million m<sup>3</sup>, 2.0% of total U.S. hardwood growing stock. American elm is growing 5.9 million m<sup>3</sup> per year while the harvest is 2.5 million m<sup>3</sup> per year. The net volume (after harvest) is increasing by 3.4 million m<sup>3</sup> each year. U.S. elm growth exceeds harvest in most significant producing states with the exception of Ohio. Despite surviving Dutch elm disease American elm is still susceptible to the disease which has impacted on growth and harvest in some States.

# AMERICAN SYCAMORE

## LATIN NAME

*Platanus occidentalis*

## OTHER COMMON NAMES

buttonwood, American plane

## PERFORMANCE

- Sycamore machines and works well, but high speed cutters are required to avoid chipping. It is resistant to splitting due to its interlocked grain. The wood glues well and stains and polishes with care to an excellent finish. It dries rapidly and has a tendency to warp. It has moderate shrinkage and little movement in performance.
- The wood is non-resistant to heartwood decay but is permeable to preservative treatment.

## MAIN USES

American sycamore, growing in natural forests in the USA, is considered highly suitable for cabinetry and furniture. It is used for mouldings, internal joinery and veneered panels. Specialist uses include butcher blocks and shopfitting.



Mouldings



Furniture



Cabinets



Veneered Panels



Food Related Use

American sycamore is one of the few wood species that can be confused with its European cousin *Acer pseudoplatnus*, which is botanically different.

## MATERIAL AVAILABILITY

Sycamore lumber from the USA is available in limited volumes mainly from southern producers and more easily sourced as thinner stock (4/4" & 5/4"). Check with suppliers for grades available for export. Veneer is also available from specialist suppliers.

## FOREST DISTRIBUTION

American sycamore trees are generally huge, being one of the largest hardwood species in North America, growing throughout the eastern and central USA in natural hardwood forests. Several other American planes, as they are called, grow in California and Arizona but are not commercially significant.

## WOOD DESCRIPTION

The wood of sycamore may display a variety of colours. The sap is white to light yellow in colour and the heartwood is light to dark brown. Sycamore has a fine close texture and is interlocked. The grain is distinct with a characteristic fleck.





# AMERICAN BASSWOOD

LATIN NAME  
*Tilia americana*

OTHER COMMON NAMES  
linden

American basswood is a light weight species renowned for its creamy colour and ability to be machined and shaped accurately into thin sections, and as a premium wood for carving.

## MATERIAL AVAILABILITY

Basswood from the USA is available in relatively limited volumes compared to some other species, both as sawn lumber and veneer. Lumber is available in a range of grades and thickness from 4/4" (25.4mm) right through to 16/4" (101.6mm) due to its ease of drying. Basswood lumber is also available in 9/4" (57.2mm) a specially produced thickness for production of window shutters and venetian blinds.

## FOREST DISTRIBUTION

American basswood is botanically related to the lime tree found in Europe. The trees are generally large in height and diameter, often with straight trunks and relatively free of limbs thus reducing knots. Basswood can be found growing throughout the USA in natural hardwood forests.

## WOOD DESCRIPTION

The sap of basswood tends to be large and is creamy white in colour giving way to the heartwood that is pale to reddish brown. It may display dark streaks which are not a defect. The difference between sap and heartwood is small and may be indistinct. The wood of basswood has a fine uniform texture and straight grain, which is not distinct.

## PERFORMANCE

- Basswood machines easily and works well with hand tools, making it a preferred species for carving. It holds screws better than nails, and glues reasonably well and can be sanded, stained and polished to a good smooth finish. It dries fast with low degrade and has good dimensional stability when dry.
- The wood is non-resistant to heartwood decay but is permeable, which makes it possible to accept preservative treatment and staining.

## MAIN USES

This unique hardwood, growing in natural forests in the USA, is considered the best species for venetian blinds and internal shutters. It is widely used for carving, turning, mouldings and furniture. Specialist uses include pattern making and musical instruments, especially for piano parts.



## FOREST GROWTH

Forest Inventory Analysis (FIA) data shows U.S. basswood growing stock is 210.9 million m³, 1.4% of total U.S. hardwood growing stock. American basswood is growing 3.3 million m³ per year while the harvest is 1.7 million m³ per year. The net volume (after harvest) is increasing by 1.6 million m³ each year. U.S. basswood growth exceeds or is in balance with harvest in all the main producing states.

# AMERICAN COTTONWOOD

LATIN NAME  
*Populus deltoides*

OTHER COMMON NAMES  
eastern cottonwood, eastern poplar

American eastern cottonwood is one of many true poplars, such as aspen, but requires expertise to use successfully.

## MATERIAL AVAILABILITY

American cottonwood is available as sawn lumber and veneer but may only be available in limited volumes of export specifications, determined by current export demand. Cottonwood lumber is mainly available from southern producers predominantly in 4/4" (25.4mm) and 5/4" (31.8mm), where it needs to be processed quickly when freshly cut (green) to avoid checking and blue staining.

## FOREST DISTRIBUTION

American eastern cottonwood trees are fast growing and the largest of this genus grows widely across the USA and is normally associated with water such as the Mississippi. They can be up to 8 feet in diameter. Cottonwood may be referred to as white poplar and should not be confused with tulipwood, known as yellow poplar in the USA.

## WOOD DESCRIPTION

Cottonwood is a porous wood with a coarse texture. It is generally straight grained with relatively few defects. The sap is white, but may contain brown streaks. The heartwood is pale to light brown.

## PERFORMANCE

- Cottonwood presents some machining challenges, which can be overcome. The wood may produce a fuzzy or woolly surface when cut, so it is essential to use sharp blades set at the correct angle to avoid this problem. Otherwise it glues and screws well without splitting. It dries easily but with a tendency to warp, with small movement in performance.
- The wood is non-resistant to decay.

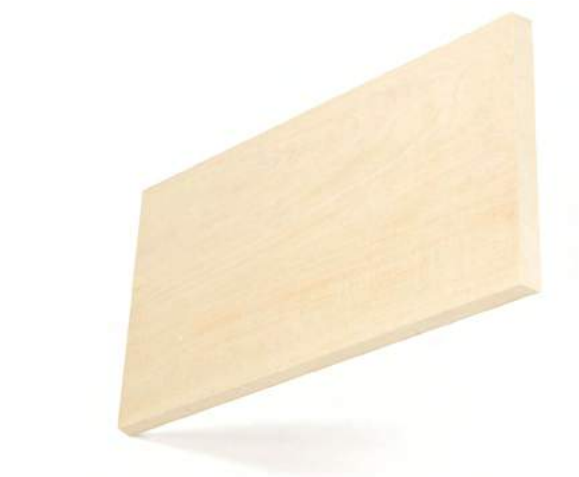
## MAIN USES

Traditionally used for venetian blinds, American cottonwood is used for furniture, especially reproduction furniture and furniture parts. Other uses include internal joinery and mouldings.



## FOREST GROWTH

FIA data shows U.S. cottonwood growing stock is 236.5 million m³, 1.6% of total U.S. hardwood growing stock. U.S. cottonwood is growing 4.3 million m³ per year while the harvest is 1.8 million m³ per year. The net volume (after harvest) is increasing 2.5 million m³ each year. American cottonwood growth exceeds harvest in all the main producing states except Maine (where it is mainly planted in urban areas), Nebraska and Texas. Cottonwoods are declining in some semi-arid areas of the U.S. due to drought, invasion of exotic species and overgrazing.





# AMERICAN GUM

LATIN NAME

*Liquidambar styraciflua*

OTHER COMMON NAMES

redgum, sweetgum

American gum is an important and diverse group of hardwoods, often undervalued and growing sustainably throughout the eastern and particularly the south-eastern USA. Not to be confused with Australian gum (Eucalypt).

MATERIAL AVAILABILITY

American gum is available as sawn lumber and veneer in a variety of grades and sizes. It is usually sold as sapgum with no colour specification. Under NHLA Grading Rules each clear cutting must have one red (heartwood) face. When sorted for colour redgum (majority heartwood) is much more limited in availability. Lumber is more likely to be available in thinner stock (4/4" & 5/4") and may be more limited in export markets.

FOREST DISTRIBUTION

American gum trees are large with straight trunks growing widely across the South Eastern USA. There are several other, non-commercial, gums that also grow across the USA.

WOOD DESCRIPTION

Gum has a fine uniform texture, but has irregular grain, usually interlocked, often with an attractive grain figure. The sap of gum tends to be wide and is white to light pink in colour, whereas the heartwood is reddish brown, typically with dark streaks.

PERFORMANCE

- Gum is easy to work with both hand and machine tools. It nails, screws and glues well, takes stain easily and can be sanded and polished to an excellent finish. Gum dries rapidly with a strong tendency to warp and twist. It has a large shrinkage and is liable to movement in performance.
- The wood is rated as non-resistant to decay. The heartwood is moderately resistant to preservative treatment, but the sap is permeable.

MAIN USES

Main uses are cabinet making, furniture and furniture parts, doors, internal joinery and mouldings. Gum has been used and stained, as a substitute for walnut or mahogany.



FOREST GROWTH

FIA data shows U.S. gum growing stock is 714.6 million m³, 4.9% of total U.S. hardwood growing stock. American gum is growing 22.9 million m³ per year while the harvest is 11.7 million m³ per year. The net volume (after harvest) is increasing 11.2 million m³ each year. U.S. gum growth exceeds or is in balance with harvest in all the main producing states.

# AMERICAN YELLOW BIRCH

LATIN NAME

*Betula alleghaniensis*

OTHER COMMON NAMES

N/A

American yellow birch is one of a large group of species and is commercially the best of its group grown sustainably with a wide distribution, preferring cool regions with high rainfall.

MATERIAL AVAILABILITY

Birch from the USA is available in limited volumes as sawn lumber unselected for colour but more limited in sizes and grades if red heartwood or white sapwood is specified. When selected for colour FAS grade will allow 5 inch minimum width. Refer to NHLA Grading Rules for colour sorting specifications. Birch is more likely to be available in thinner sizes 4/4" (25.4mm) & 5/4" (31.8mm). Veneer may also be available from specialist suppliers.

FOREST DISTRIBUTION

American yellow birch trees are generally not too large in this pioneer species that can be overgrown by climax species, such as maple. Definitely a northern, cold climate tree, yellow birch is medium sized with a medium diameter although larger trees can grow infrequently. Yellow birch should not be confused with paper birch, which is softer in texture and lighter in colour with scattered brown flecks.

WOOD DESCRIPTION

The wood of yellow birch has a distinct difference between the sap which is white and the heartwood which is light reddish brown. The wood is generally straight grained with a fine uniform texture.

PERFORMANCE

- Birch machines fairly easily and works well with care, including turning and takes stains and polish extremely well. It nails and screws satisfactorily where pre-boring is recommended. It dries rather slowly with little degrade, but has a moderately high shrinkage, so may move in performance.
- The wood is non-resistant to heartwood decay but is moderately resistance to preservative treatment and the sapwood is permeable.

MAIN USES

American yellow birch, growing sustainably in the natural forests in the USA, is used for some furniture and joinery, such as doors and interior panelling and kitchen cabinets.



FOREST GROWTH

Forest Inventory Analysis (FIA) data shows U.S. yellow birch growing stock is 541 million m³, 3.7% of total U.S. hardwood growing stock. American yellow birch is growing 7.1 million m³ per year while the harvest is 4.8 million m³ per year. The net volume (after harvest) is increasing 2.3 million m³ each year. U.S. yellow birch growth exceeds harvest in most of the main producing states including Maine, New Hampshire, New York, Pennsylvania and Vermont.





# FURNITURE & PRODUCT FOCUS

*“Wood has so many different qualities if you can use it well, including its ability to capture carbon. What better core material could there be for something like this in people’s homes?” – Thomas Heatherwick*



*The Butler in American willow by David Chipperfield Architects and E15*



*OVO furniture range in American walnut by Foster + Partners, crafted by Benchmark Furniture*



*Arco by Maria Jeglinska-Adamczewska in American cherry, as part of Connected*



*Writer's Collection in American red oak by Sebastian Cox for Amanda Nevill, British Film Institute, as part of Legacy*



“Maple is a strong reliable wood, both in terms of its mechanical properties and its aesthetic. It’s very light and white and can almost disappear in a space and blend in with the surroundings.” – Maria Bruun



Taburete Barlovento in American red oak by Andrés Mariño Maza as part of Toca Madera



Stammtisch in American red oak by Sebastian Herkner, as part of Connected



Humble Administrator in American cherry and red oak by Studio Swine, as part of Connected



The Blushing Bar in American red oak by Sebastian Cox and Chan + Eayres



Stem in American maple by Heatherwick Studio, as part of Connected



# AMERICAN ALDER

American alder is the major commercial species grown on the western seaboard of the USA and is unique to the hardwood forest resources of North America; one of the few red hardwood species.

### MATERIAL AVAILABILITY

- Alder is graded using NHLA Pacific Coast Red Alder Rules published in the “NHLA Rules for the Measurement and Inspection of Hardwood and Cypress”. The key grading points include grading from the better face rather than poor side, as in the Standard NHLA Grading Rules; pin knots are regarded as character and no defect. The primary grades include Superior (Select and Better), Cabinet (No. 1 Common) and Frame (No. 2 Common) that are similar to uses as for the standard NHLA grades.
- Alder from the USA is readily available as kiln dried sawn lumber and often sold under a range of unique grading rules, for grades not listed in the NHLA Rules, consultation with suppliers is recommended.
- Lumber may be sold rough sawn or planed as dimension stock. It has limited availability as veneer.



### LATIN NAME

*Alnus rubra*

### OTHER COMMON NAMES

red alder, western red alder, western alder

### WOOD DESCRIPTION

Alder is almost white when freshly cut, but quickly changes on exposure to air, becoming light brown with a yellow or reddish tinge. There is no visible difference between the sap and the heartwood, although heartwood is formed only in older or mature trees. The wood of alder is fairly straight grain, somewhat similar in character to cherry, with uniform texture.

### FOREST DISTRIBUTION

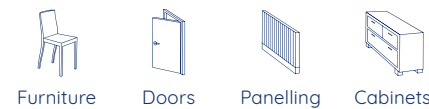
American alder trees grow prolifically in the Pacific Northwest under sustainable management. Alder has a relatively short rotation, taking less time to mature for harvest than most other hardwoods.

### PERFORMANCE

- Alder machines easily and is good for planing, drilling, boring, carving, moulding, nailing, screwing and gluing, making it highly suitable for furniture and joinery.
- The wood is non-resistant to heartwood decay but is permeable to preservative treatment.

### MAIN USES

- This prolific hardwood from the Pacific Northwest, with excellent environmental credentials, is used for furniture, kitchen cabinets and interior joinery. It is also used for doors and panelling.
- The grain pattern and colour of alder makes it suitable as a substitute for cherry.



# AMERICAN ASPEN

### LATIN NAME

*Populus tremuloides*

### OTHER COMMON NAMES

white poplar, trembling aspen, popple

### WOOD DESCRIPTION

The sap of aspen is white and the heartwood is light brown with only a small difference between the two. The wood of aspen has a fine uniform texture and straight grain.

### PERFORMANCE

- Aspen machines easily but can produce a slightly fuzzy surface when cut. It does not split when nailed and it turns and sands fairly easily and holds paint and stain well to produce a good finish, but care is needed where the surface is fuzzy. Aspen has low to moderate shrinkage and good dimensional stability. It is similar in performance to other true poplars grown around the world.
- The wood is non-resistant to heartwood decay and is resistant to preservative treatment.

### MAIN USES

This fast growing hardwood, which is common across the USA, is used for furniture parts, particularly drawer sides. It is also used in a variety of applications including doors, interior joinery, mouldings and picture frames. Specialist uses include seating in saunas due to its low conductivity of heat and in food packaging and chopsticks due to lack of odour and taste. Aspen is also used for pulp for paper.



### FOREST GROWTH

Forest Inventory Analysis (FIA) data shows U.S. aspen growing stock is 637.1 million m<sup>3</sup>, 4.4% of total U.S. hardwood growing stock. American aspen is growing 10.4 million m<sup>3</sup> per year while the harvest is 8.9 million m<sup>3</sup> per year. The net volume (after harvest) is increasing 1.5 million m<sup>3</sup> each year.





# AMERICAN WILLOW

LATIN NAME

*Salix nigra*

OTHER COMMON NAMES

black willow, swamp willow

American black willow is a southern states species, usually associated with water and is just one of many willow species.

WOOD DESCRIPTION

The wood of willow has a fine and even texture. The grain may be straight or interlocked and may present attractive figure. The narrow sapwood varies according to site conditions and is light to creamy brown in colour but can be almost white. The heartwood is distinct ranging from pale reddish brown to greyish brown and can be quite dark. Burls and swirls in the grain are natural characteristics and are not considered defects.



# AMERICAN SASSAFRAS

LATIN NAME

*Sassafras officinale*

OTHER COMMON NAMES

red sassafras, golden elm, cinnamon wood

American sassafras is a medium sized tree important to wildlife and the perfume industry because of its aromatic properties. It is used for furniture and joinery but is not widely exported as lumber due to its limited availability.

WOOD DESCRIPTION

The heartwood of sassafras is pale to dark brown but often golden in colour. It is a soft light flexible wood. The grain may be interlocked, can be straight but is often wavy and can produce a highly attractive fiddleback pattern. The wood may have a coarse or fairly fine texture and the grain has an ash-like appearance and resembles chestnut.



# AMERICAN HACKBERRY

LATIN NAME

*Celtis occidentalis*

OTHER COMMON NAMES

sugarberry

American hackberry is an attractive American hardwood, relatively unknown outside the USA.

WOOD DESCRIPTION

The wood of hackberry is similar to elm to which it is related, but although it is heavy is fairly soft and not very strong. The irregular coarse grain may be straight and sometimes interlocked, but it has a fine uniform texture. There is little difference between the sap and the heartwood which are yellowish grey to light brown in colour throughout.



# AMERICAN BEECH

LATIN NAME

*Fagus grandifolia*

OTHER COMMON NAMES

N/A

American beech is an important species within the huge family of Fagaceae in the silvicultural composition of the natural hardwood forests of North America which include oaks and chestnut, but beech is not one of the most commercially available.

WOOD DESCRIPTION

American beech tends to be darker in colour and less consistent than European beech. The sapwood is almost white with a red tinge and the heartwood is light to dark reddish brown. The wood of beech is generally straight and close grained with uniform texture. It has medium bending and crushing strength, but is low in stiffness and shock resistance. The wood may exhibit brown mineral streaks in the heartwood which, under NHLA Grading Rules, are not considered a defect.





# AMERICAN HARDWOOD LUMBER GRADES

## INTRODUCTION

**The purpose of this section is to provide a simplified but thorough explanation of the grading rules for American hardwood lumber. They were established over 100 years ago by the newly formed National Hardwood Lumber Association (NHLA). Today the NHLA has over 2,000 members worldwide and the NHLA rules are still the national standard for the U.S. hardwood industry and form the basis for grading of export lumber.**

Wood is a natural material and by its very nature may contain different characteristics and defects that need to be understood and considered in any given application. The grading of sawn wood into categories as it is processed helps to indicate, to a large extent, the value and potential use for each board of sawn lumber.

The NHLA grading rules provide both the buyer and seller with a consistent language to use in specifying hardwood lumber transactions. Although the NHLA grading rules are targeted for the U.S. marketplace, reasonable knowledge is essential for buyers worldwide in order to attain their expected degree of quality and yield.

The grade of lumber purchased by a manufacturer will determine both the cost and waste factor that is achieved. Because the grades are based on the percentage of clear wood in the board. Many of the beautiful, natural characteristics found in hardwoods are not considered in calculating the clear yield. This fact is highlighted by photograph illustrations of the main grades, for nine important U.S. hardwood species, contained in this publication.

Hardwood lumber is usually graded on the basis of the size and number of cuttings (pieces) that can be obtained from a board when it is cut up and used in the manufacture of a hardwood product. The NHLA rules were designed with the furniture trade in mind to provide a measurable percentage of clear, defect free wood for each grade. The upper grades provide the user with long clear pieces, while the Common grades are designed to be re-sawn into shorter clear pieces.

The upper grades, which will include FAS, FAS-One-Face (FAS/1F) and Selects, are most suitable for long clear mouldings, joinery products such as door frames, architectural interiors; and furniture applications, which require a heavy percentage of long wide cuttings.

The Common grades, primarily Number 1 Common (No. 1C) and Number 2A Common (No. 2AC) are likely to be most suitable for the kitchen cabinet industry, most furniture parts, and plank and strip flooring. Worth noting is the fact that once re-sawn, the cuttings obtained from the Common grades will be the same clear wood as the upper grades but in smaller (shorter and/or narrower) cuttings. The grade name simply designates the percentage of clear wood in the board, not the overall appearance.

The American hardwood temperate forest resource is the largest of its kind anywhere in the world, with a significant history of sustainability. Exploring the Common grades, where possible, is invaluable in achieving the most value both in lumber cost and yield. These efforts will also help to ensure the sustainability of the resource for generations.



# MEASUREMENT

The NHLA lumber grading rules adopted by the U.S. hardwood industry are based on an imperial measurement system using inches and feet. In contrast, most export markets are more familiar with a metric standard. Additionally, the grade rules were developed with random width and length lumber in mind. Any selection for particular specifications should be discussed prior to ordering.

## BOARD FOOT

A **board foot (BF)** is the unit of measurement for hardwood lumber.

A board foot is 1 foot long × 1 foot wide × 1 inch thick.

(1 foot = 0.305 metres, 1 inch = 25.4mm)

The formula for determining board feet in a board is:

W

×

L

×

D

(width in inches)

(length in feet)

(thickness in inches)

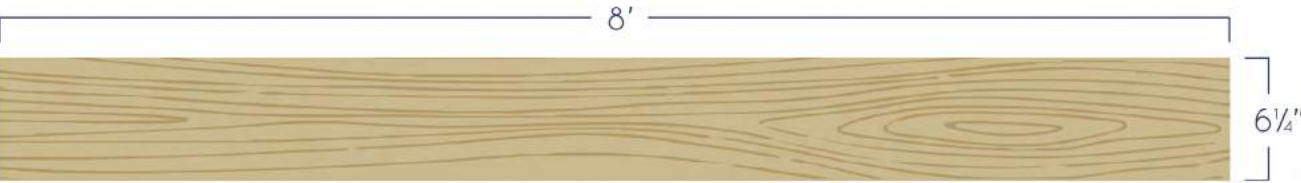
= BF

12

The percentages of clear wood required for each grade are based on this 12' unit of measure.

## EXAMPLE OF SM AND BF:

The board below is a 2" thick, 6 1/4" wide , and 8' long.



6 1/4"

×

8'

= 4 1/6"

12

thus the SM is 4'.

When preparing a bundle tally for export, the boards are recorded by their width and length. Random widths above or below the half inch are rounded to the nearest whole inch. Board widths falling exactly on the half inch are alternatively rounded up or down. Lengths that fall between whole foot increments are always rounded down to the nearest whole foot.

For example a board 5 1/4" width and 8 1/2' long is tallied 5" and 8'.

## SURFACE MEASURE

**Surface measure (SM)** is the surface area of a board in square feet. To determine surface measure, multiply the width of the board in inches by the length of the board in feet and divide the sum by 12, rounding up or down to the nearest whole number. The percentage of clear wood required for each grade is based on the surface measure, not the board feet, and because of this all boards, no matter what the thickness, are graded in the same way.

W

×

L

(width in inches)

(length in feet)

= SM

12

Multiply the SM by the thickness 2" and the BF is 8'.

## STANDARD THICKNESS FOR ROUGH SAWN LUMBER

Standard thickness for rough sawn lumber is expressed in quarters of an inch. For example 1" = 4/4. The majority of U.S. hardwood lumber production is sawn between 1" and 2", although other thicknesses are available in more limited volumes. The standard thicknesses and their exact metric equivalent are shown below.

3/4 (3/4" = 19.0mm)	8/4 (2" = 50.8mm)
4/4 (1" = 25.4mm)	10/4 (2 1/2" = 63.5mm)
5/4 (1 1/4" = 31.8mm)	12/4 (3" = 76.2mm)
6/4 (1 1/2" = 38.1mm)	16/4 (4" = 101.6mm)

## STANDARD THICKNESS FOR SURFACED (PLANED) LUMBER

When rough sawn lumber is surfaced (planed) to a finished thickness, defects such as checks, stains and warp are not considered when establishing the grade board if they can be removed in the surfacing (planing) process. The finished thickness for lumber of 1 1/2" and less can be determined by subtracting 3/16" from the nominal thickness. For lumber 1 3/4" and thicker, subtract 1/4".

## MEASUREMENT OF KILN DRIED LUMBER

**Net tally:** The actual board feet of kiln dried lumber measured after kiln drying.

**Gross or green tally:** The actual board feet measured before kiln drying. When kiln dried lumber is sold on this basis, the buyer can expect to receive approximately 7% less board feet because of shrinkage in the kiln drying process.

## INSPECTION OF KILN DRIED LUMBER

The minimum widths and thicknesses mentioned in this publication are based on green or air dried lumber. The Standard Kiln Dried Rule listed in the NHLA Rules includes allowances for shrinkage after kiln drying and these are:

*Rough kiln dried lumber specified 3/8" to 1 3/4" thick may be 1/16" scant of the nominal thickness; 2" and thicker may be 1/8" scant. The minimum widths mentioned in all grades may be 1/4" scant in width.*

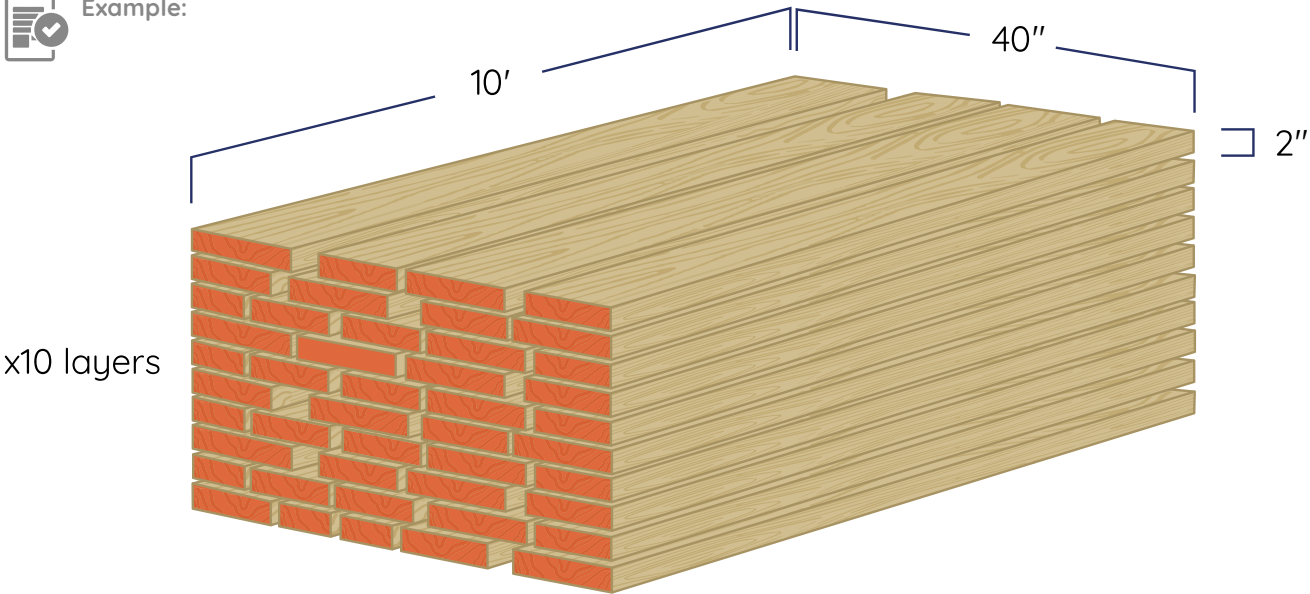
## ESTIMATING BOARD FEET IN A BUNDLE OF LUMBER

To determine the board feet of one board, the procedure is to multiply the surface measure by the thickness. A bundle of lumber can be estimated in much the same manner. First, calculate the surface measure of one layer of boards. Do this by multiplying the width of the bundle, minus gaps, by the length of the bundle and divide the sum by 12. If there are several lengths in the bundle, use an average length. Once one layer is estimated, multiply this sum by the total number of layers.





Example:



Average width of unit 40"  
(lumber only, after allowing for gaps between boards)

SM of one layer  $40'' \times 10' = \frac{400}{12} = 33.33$

BF of one layer (multiply SM by thickness)  $33.33 \times 2'' = 66.66$

BF of bundle (multiply by number of layers)  $66.66 \times 10 = 666.67$

Estimated board feet of the bundle = **667 BF**

CONVERSION FACTORS

1"	25.4 millimetres (mm)
1m	3.281 feet
1,000BF (1MBF)	2.36 cubic metre (m <sup>3</sup> )
1m <sup>3</sup>	424 board feet (BF)
1m <sup>3</sup>	35.315 cubic feet (cu.ft)

TOP TIPS:

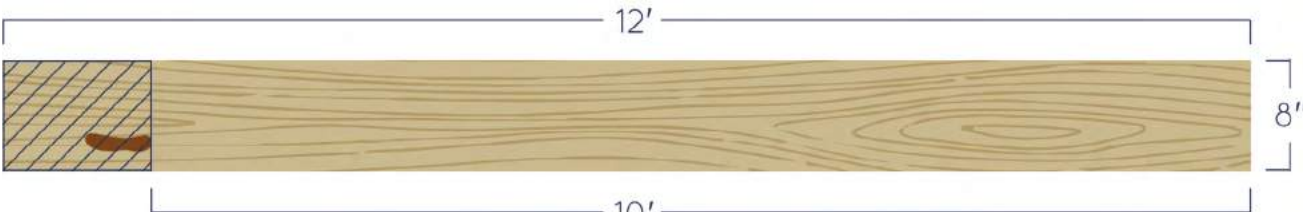
1. Standard thickness for rough sawn lumber is expressed in quarters of an inch.
2. Defects such as checks, stains and warp are not considered when establishing the grade of a board if they can be removed in the surfacing process.
3. If buying kiln dried lumber on a gross tally, the buyer can expect to receive approximately 7% less board footage.

# THE GRADES

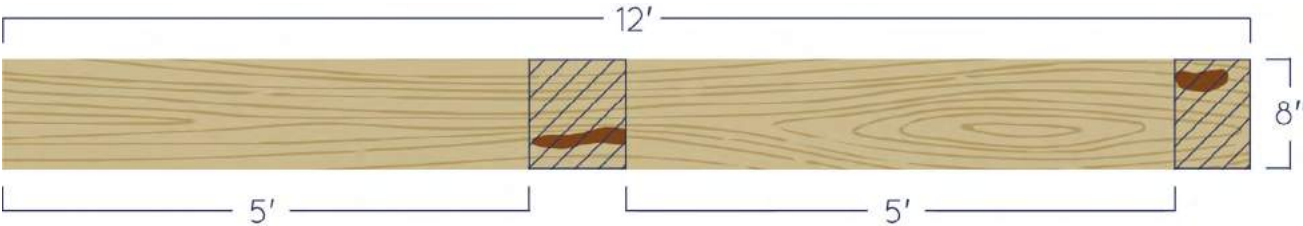
FAS

The FAS grade, which derives from an original grade "First And Seconds", will provide the user with long, clear cuttings – best suited for high quality furniture, interior joinery and solid wood mouldings. Minimum board size is 6" and wider and 8' and longer. The FAS grade includes a range of boards that yield from 83⅓% (10⁹⁄₁₂ths) to 100% clear-wood cuttings over the entire surface of the board. The clear cuttings must be a minimum size of 3" wide by 7' long or 4" wide by 5' long. The number of these cuttings permitted depends on the size of the board with most boards permitting one to two. The minimum width and length will vary, depending on species and whether the board is green or kiln dried.

Both faces of the board must meet the minimum requirement for FAS.



Note: Minimum yield 83 ⅓ % clear wood cuttings on the poor face of the board.



FAS ONE FACE (F1F)

This grade is nearly always shipped with FAS. The better face must meet all FAS requirements while the poor face must meet all the requirements of the Number 1 Common grade, thus ensuring the buyer with at least one FAS face. There is no standard percentage of FAS One Face that may be included in a shipment; this can vary between suppliers and shipments. If the amount included in a shipment is a concern, please consult the supplier for amount.

SELECTS

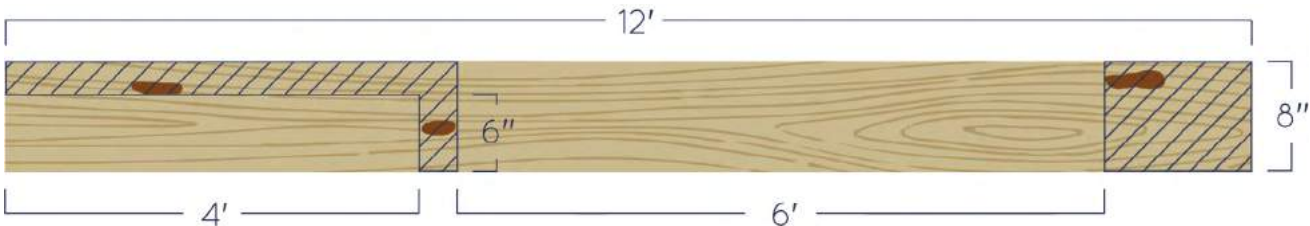
This grade is virtually the same as FAS 1F except for the minimum board size required. Selects allow boards 4" and wider and 6' and longer in length. The Selects grade is generally associated with the northern regions of the USA and is also shipped in combination with the FAS grade. Often export shipments of upper grades are simply referred to as FAS. The conventional business practice for American hardwoods is to ship these upper grades in some combination. Working closely with the supplier will enable the buyer to be sure that the expected quality will be received. When FAS is combined with F1F or Selects every board in the shipment must have a minimum of one FAS face.



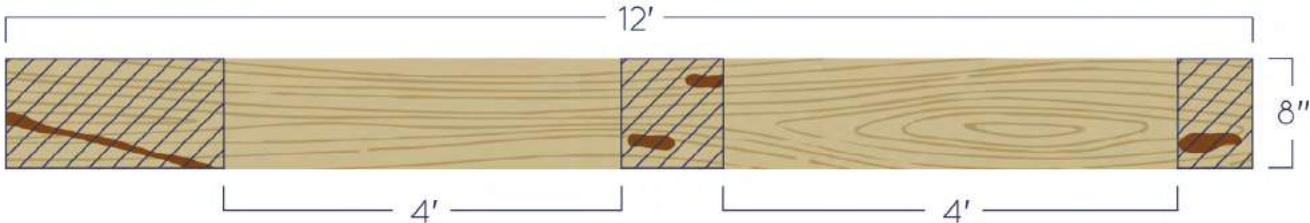
NUMBER 1 COMMON (NO. 1C):

The Number 1 Common grade is often referred to as the 'cabinet grade' in the USA because of its adaptability to the standard sizes of kitchen cabinet doors used throughout the United States. Number 1 Common is widely used in the manufacture of furniture parts as well, for this same reason. The Number 1 Common grades includes boards that are a minimum of 3" wide and 4' long and will yield clear face cuttings from 66⅔% (⅔ths) up to, but not including, the minimum requirement for FAS (83⅓%). The smallest clear cuttings allowed are 3" by 3' and 4" by 2'. The number of these clear cuttings is determined by the size of the board.

**Both faces of the board must meet the minimum requirement for Number 1 Common.**



Note: If the better face meets the requirements for FAS and the poor face meets the requirements for Number 1 Common, the grade has the potential of being a F1F or Selects.

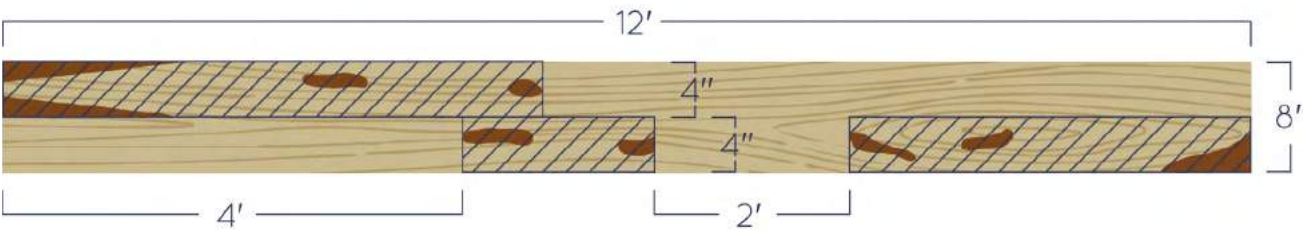


TOP TIPS:

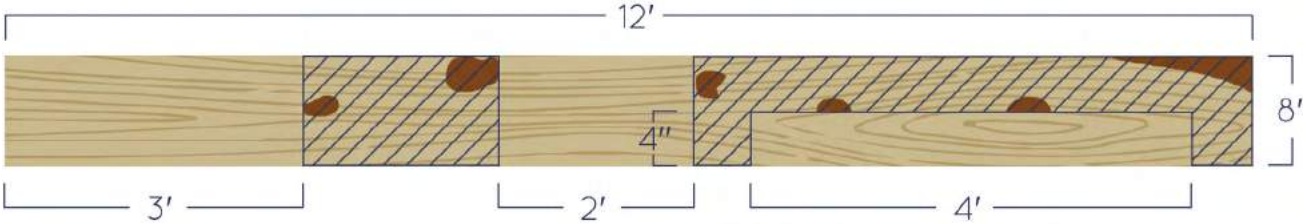
1. The FAS grade will provide the user with long, clear cuttings – best suited for high quality furniture, interior joinery and solid wood mouldings.
2. The better face of F1F grade must meet all FAS requirements while the poor face must meet all the requirements of the Number 1 Common grade.
3. The Selects grade is virtually the same as FAS 1F except the minimum board size allows boards 4" and wider and 6' and longer in length.
4. The Number 1 Common grade includes boards that are a minimum of 3" wide and 4' long. The smallest clear cuttings allowed are 3" by 3' and 4" by 2'.

NUMBER 2A COMMON (NO. 2AC):

The Number 2A Common grade is often referred to as the 'economy grade' because of its price and suitability for a wide range of furniture parts. It is also the grade of choice for the U.S. hardwood flooring industry. The Number 2A Common grade includes boards that are a minimum of 3" wide and 4' long that yield from 50% (½ths) up to, but not including, the minimum requirement for Number 1 Common (66⅔%). The smallest clear cutting allowed is 3" by 2' and the number of these cuttings depends on the size of the board. If the poorest face meets the minimum requirements for Number 2A Common, it does not matter what the grade of the better face is.



Note: If the better face meets the requirements for either FAS or Number 1 Common and the poor face grades Number 2A Common, the grade of the board is Number 2A Common.



NUMBER 2B COMMON (NO. 2BC):

Number 2B Common has the same requirements as Number 2A Common with the exception that all required cuttings are only required to be sound.

Number 2 Common is a combination of Number 2A Common and Number 2B Common with no percentage of either grade required in any shipment.

These standard grades form the framework by which all American hardwoods are traded. It is important to note that between buyer and seller any exception to these rules is permissible and even encouraged. For a complete description of the NHLA grades, consult the NHLA's *Rules for the Measurement and Inspection of Hardwoods and Cypress*.

TOP TIPS:

1. If the poorest face of No. 2AC meets the minimum requirements for Number 2A Common, it does not matter what the grade of the better face is.



# CHARACTERISTICS

The following images show characteristics that occur in U.S. hardwoods. Some are inherent to certain species and others are generic to all. These characteristics either occur naturally in the lumber or as a result of the drying process. As previously mentioned, the grades are based on the percentage of clear, defect free wood in the board.

**The NHLA grading rules allow the following characteristics in the clear cutting percentages for all grades and they are therefore not considered defects.**



## HEARTWOOD AND SAPWOOD

Heartwood is the mature wood, which is often darker, extending from the sapwood to the pith. Sapwood is the lighter colored wood growing from inside the bark to the heartwood.



## BURL

A swirl or twist in the grain of the wood that does not contain a knot.



## GUM STREAKS

Mineral-like streaks of color naturally occurring only in cherry.



## MINERAL STREAKS

Streaks of color ranging from olive to blackish-brown, which typically follow the grain pattern.



## GLASSWORM

Random mineral-like tracts. Usually associated with ash.



## STICKER MARK

The mark left on the board from a seasoning sticker, which can be removed in the surfacing planing process.

**Note:** Although the NHLA grading rules do not consider these characteristics as defects for the standard grades, allowances are made within the individual species.



**Example:** Species such as hard maple and ash are more desirable if there is a large portion of the board that is sapwood (white) and very little heartwood. The reverse is true when specifying species such as cherry, oak and walnut. It is essential that buyers familiarise themselves not only with each species but the growing regions throughout the USA as well. Climate, soil and growing conditions such as hills and valleys all play an important role in the growth of the tree. As previously stated, the NHLA rules are the framework to begin the trading process.

More information about the characteristics, physical properties and uses for individual species can be found at [americanhardwood.org](http://americanhardwood.org) and in other AHEC technical publications.

# DEFECTS



## BIRD PECKS

Small blemishes in the grain pattern resulting from birds pecking that sometimes contain ingrown bark. An exception to the rule is hickory and elm.



## SOUND KNOT

A knot solid across its face, which shows no indication of decay.



## STICKER STAIN

Stain that is typically grey in color occurring from stickers used to season lumber.



## WORM HOLES

Holes in the wood ranging in size from 1/16" to over 1/4".



## BARK POCKET

A bark-filled distortion in the grain pattern.



## CHECK

A lengthwise opening on the face of the board resulting from rapid or faulty drying.



## DECAY OR ROT

The breaking down of the wood substance by fungi. The discoloration of the sapwood indicates the initial evidence of decay.



## UN SOUND KNOT

A circular area that once formed the base of a branch or twig and has a pith centre (in some cases the wood may be missing).



# AMERICAN ASH

**LATIN NAME**  
*Fraxinus species, principally Fraxinus americana*

**OTHER COMMON NAMES**  
northern ash, southern ash



**SPLIT**  
A lengthwise separation of the wood created as the wood dries.



**SHAKE**  
A separation between the annual growth rings.



**WANE**  
Bark or the lack of wood caused by the round nature of the tree or log.



**PITH**  
The small soft core at the structural centre of the tree.



**GRUB HOLES**  
Holes larger than 1/4".

**Note:** The following defects are considered sound and are allowed in the clear cutting of 2B Common: bird pecks, sound knot, sticker stain and worm holes.

FAS



No. 1C



No. 2AC





# AMERICAN CHERRY

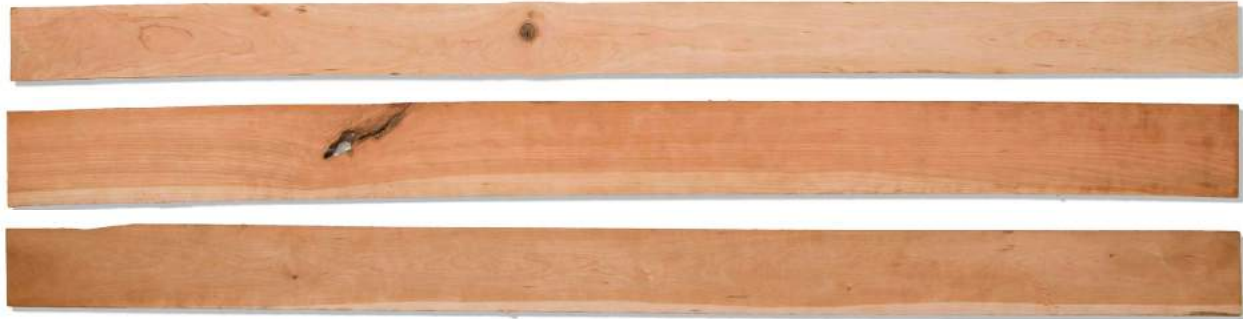
LATIN NAME  
*Prunus serotina*

OTHER COMMON NAMES  
black cherry

FAS



No. 1C



No. 2AC



# AMERICAN HICKORY

LATIN NAME  
*Carya species*

OTHER COMMON NAMES  
often referred to as pecan in the South

FAS



No. 1C



No. 2AC



No. 2BC





# AMERICAN HARD MAPLE

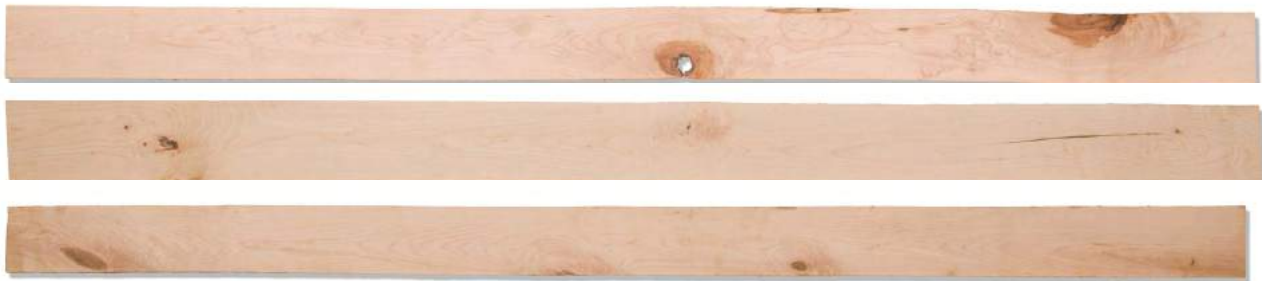
**LATIN NAME**  
*Acer saccharum*

**OTHER COMMON NAMES**  
sugar maple, rock maple, black maple

FAS



No. 1C



No. 2AC



# AMERICAN SOFT MAPLE

**LATIN NAME**  
*Acer rubrum, Acer macrophyllum*

**OTHER COMMON NAMES**  
red maple, big leaf maple

FAS



No. 1C



No. 2AC



No. 2BC





# AMERICAN RED OAK

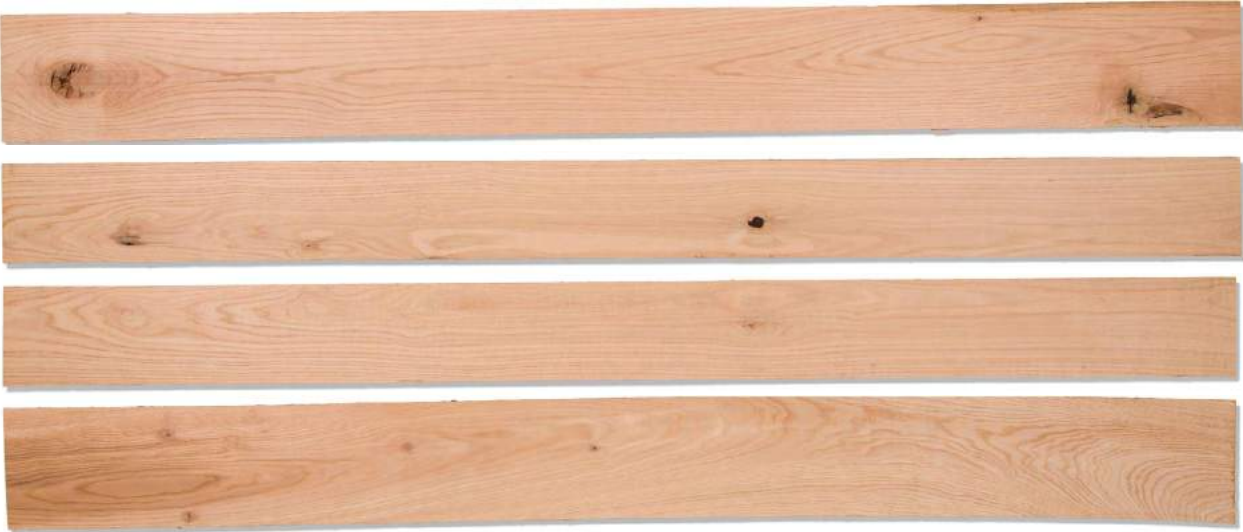
**LATIN NAME**  
*Quercus species, principally Quercus rubra*

**OTHER COMMON NAMES**  
northern red oak, southern red oak

FAS



No. 1C



No. 2AC



# AMERICAN WHITE OAK

**LATIN NAME**  
*Quercus species, principally Quercus alba*

**OTHER COMMON NAMES**  
northern white oak, southern white oak

FAS



No. 1C



No. 2AC





# AMERICAN TULIPWOOD

LATIN NAME

*Liriodendron tulipifera*

OTHER COMMON NAMES

yellow poplar, tulip poplar, canary whitewood; not to be confused with European or Chinese poplar

FAS



No. 1C



No. 2AC



# AMERICAN WALNUT

LATIN NAME

*Juglans nigra*

OTHER COMMON NAMES

black walnut

FAS



No. 1C



No. 2AC



No. 2BC





# ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE

## REGIONAL EXCEPTIONS TO THE STANDARD NHLA GRADES

The NHLA grades cover the majority of commercial hardwood species growing in the USA. The following is a brief summary of the various species and color sorting that can be ordered from the American supplier.

### AMERICAN RED ALDER

Grows exclusively in the Pacific Northwest between the vast stands of softwood timber, such as Douglas fir and pine, and is the most important commercial hardwood in this region. The grading rules for red alder are geared more for specific end uses and appearance. Alder is graded using *NHLA Pacific Coast Red Alder Rules published in the NHLA Rules for the Measurement & Inspection of Hardwood and Cypress*. The rules were developed on the West Coast of the USA with those manufacturers and exports in mind.

The key grading points include grading from the better face rather than poor side as in the standard NHLA Grading Rules; pin knots are regarded as character and no defect. The primary grades include Superior (Select & Better), Cabinet (No. 1 Common) and Frame (No. 2 Common) which are similar to the uses as for the standard NHLA grades. An exceptional cabinet grade would be wood typically sold surfaced (planed) and often cut to specific lengths and widths. Consult with your local supplier for a more detailed explanation of the alder grades and products available.

### AMERICAN WALNUT

Considered the elite of the American hardwoods, walnut is the favourite of the darker woods for fine furniture, interiors and gunstocks. Walnut grows in widely scattered stands throughout the eastern half of the United States, primarily in the midwest. Historically, the grading rules for FAS walnut have been refined to encourage better use of this valuable species. Because of this, FAS walnut grades allow for smaller boards, both in width and length. Natural characteristics are also admitted to a greater extent than the standard NHLA grade rules for other species. A detailed explanation can be found in the NHLA rules book. Consult with your local supplier for the walnut grades and products available.

#### TOP TIPS:

- 1. U.S. red alder is graded using the better face rather than the poor side.
- 2. U.S. walnut grading rules allow for smaller boards both in width and length.

# COLOR SORTING

In addition to sorting for grades or selecting specific widths, various species are commercially sold at an added value when color is also considered. It is important to note, color in this explanation refers to sapwood and heartwood.

### NUMBER 1 WHITE / NUMBER 2 WHITE

A color selection typically made on hard maple, but can be applied to any species where sapwood clear cuttings are desired, such as ash, birch and soft maple.

‘Number 1 white’ means both faces and edges of the clear cuttings must be all sapwood.

‘Number 2 white’ means that one face and both edges of the clear cuttings must be sapwood and not less than 50% sapwood on the reverse face.

### SAP AND BETTER

Commercially sold when only one face of the board needs to be sapwood. Usually applied to the same species as ‘Number 1 white’ and ‘Number 2 white’: although just a little less stringent. In ‘sap and better’ every board should have a minimum of one sapwood face in the clear cuttings.

### RED ONE FACE AND BETTER

Commercially sold when a minimum of one face of the board is heartwood. Usually applied to species such as cherry, oak, walnut, gum and even birch and maple in certain applications. What the producer is looking for in this specification is that all clear cuttings must have a minimum of one heartwood face.

There are a wide range of additional options open to American hardwood producers in sorting and selecting specific lengths, widths and even grain patterns. If these can be agreed individually between producers and buyers, there can be benefits by making modifications to the standard grades shown in this guide. This may also assist with improving the yield from each log and thus contributing to the sustainability of the forest. It may also reduce costs to both sides or add value to the delivery.



# DEFINITION OF SOUND CUTTING

A cutting free from rot, pith, shake and wane. Texture is not considered. It will admit sound knots, bird pecks, stains, streaks or their equivalent, season checks not materially impairing the strength of a cutting, pin, shot and spot worm holes. Other holes 1/4" or larger are admitted, but shall be limited as follows: one 1/4" in average diameter in each cutting of less than 12 units; two 1/4" or one 1/2" to each 12 units and on one side only of a cutting.

THE STEPS IN DETERMINING GRADE:

1. Determine species.
2. Calculate the Surface Measure (SM).
3. Determine the poor side of the board.
4. From this poor face, calculate the percentage of clear wood available.
5. If No.1C is the grade of the poor face, check the better face to see if it will grade FAS for the F1F or Select grades to be achieved.
6. Once the grade is determined, check for any special features such as sapwood or heartwood cuttings for special color sorts.
7. Sort to bundles according to buyer and seller specifications.

# SUMMARY OF U.S. HARDWOOD LUMBER GRADES

	FAS	FAS 1 FACE	SELECTS	NO. 1 COMMON	NO. 2A & 2B COMMON
Minimum board size	6" x 8'	Same as FAS for species being graded		3" x 4'	3" x 4'
Minimum cutting size	4" x 5' 3" x 7'	Best face of board must grade FAS  Poor face of board must grade No. 1 Common		4" x 2' 3" x 3'	3" x 2'
Minimum yield	SM x 10 83 1/3%			SM x 8 66 2/3%	SM x 6 50%
Formula to determine number of clear cuttings	SM — 4			SM + 1 — 3	SM — 2

Notes:

- This chart summarises the main requirements for the standard grades. For complete information, consult the appropriate section of the NHLA Rule Book.
- For kiln dried lumber, 1/2" shrinkage is permitted for the minimum size board in each grade.
- No. 2A Common requires clear cuttings.
- No. 2B Common is a utility grade requiring cuttings to be sound.



# COMPARATIVE TABLES

For direct comparison, physical, mechanical and working properties are shown in the following tables:

## WORKING PROPERTIES

	Sawing	Planing	Drilling	Boring	Turning	Carving	Moulding	Nailing	Screwing	Gluing	Finishing
American alder	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
American ash	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
American aspen	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
American basswood	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
American beech	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
American yellow birch	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
American cherry	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
American cottonwood	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
American elm	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
American gum	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
American hackberry	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
American hickory	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
American pecan	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
American hard maple	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
American soft maple	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
American red oak	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
American white oak	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
American sycamore	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
American tulipwood	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
American walnut	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
American willow	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

KEY  
● Fair ● Good ● Excellent

## END USE APPLICATIONS

	Doors	Flooring	Furniture	Joinery	Kitchen cabinets	Mouldings & turnings	Veneered panels	Sports goods	Tool handles
American alder	●		●	●	●	●			
American ash	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
American aspen	●		●	●		●	●		
American basswood			●	●	●	●	●		
American beech	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●
American yellow birch	●	●	●	●	●	●			
American cherry	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		
American cottonwood	●		●	●		●	●		
American elm	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		
American gum	●		●	●	●	●	●		
American hackberry	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		
American hickory		●	●	●	●			●	●
American pecan		●	●	●	●			●	●
American hard maple	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
American soft maple	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		
American red oak	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●
American white oak	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●
American sycamore	●		●	●	●	●	●		
American tulipwood	●		●	●	●	●	●		
American walnut	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		
American willow	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	

KEY  
● Yes



# COMPARATIVE TABLES

## PHYSICAL & MECHANICAL PROPERTIES

	Specific gravity (12% MC)	Average weight (12% MC),KG/ m³	Average volumetric shrinkage (Green to 6% MC), %	Modulus of Rupture, MPa	Modulus of Elasticity, MPa	Compressive strength (parallel to grain), MPa	Hardness, N
American alder	0.41	449	10.1	67.571	9,515	40.129	2624
American ash	0.60	673	10.7	103.425	11,997	51.092	5871
American aspen	0.38	417	9.2	57.918	8,136	29.304	1557
American basswood	0.37	417	12.6	59.987	10,067	32.613	1824
American beech	0.64	741	13.0	102.736	11,859	50.334	5782
American yellow birch	0.62	689	13.4	114.457	13,859	56.332	5604
American cherry	0.50	561	9.2	84.809	10,274	49.023	4226
American cottonwood	0.40	449	11.3	58.608	9,466	33.854	1913
American elm	0.53	593	11.0	89.635	10,274	43.852	3825
American gum	0.52	545	12.0	86.188	11,308	43.576	3781
American hackberry	0.53	593	13.5	76.535	8,205	37.509	3914
American hickory	0.75	833	14.3	138.590	15,583	63.365	N/A
American pecan	0.66	737	N/A	94.462	11,928	54.126	8095
American hard maple	0.63	705	11.9	108.941	12,618	53.988	6450
American soft maple							
<i>Acer rubrum</i>	0.54	609	10.5	92.393	11,308	45.093	4226
<i>Acer macrophyllum</i>	0.48	545	9.3	73.777	9,998	41.025	3781
American red oak							
<i>Quercus rubra</i>	0.63	705	10.8	98.599	12,549	46.610	5738
<i>Quercus falcata</i>	0.68	753	N/A	75.156	10,274	41.991	4715
American white oak	0.68	769	12.6	104.804	12,273	51.299	6049
American sycamore	0.49	545	11.4	68.950	9,791	37.095	3425
American tulipwood	0.42	449	9.8	69.640	10,894	38.198	2402
American walnut	0.55	609	10.2	100.677	11,584	52.264	4492
American willow	0.39	417	11.5	53.800	6,960	28.300	N/A

# GLOSSARY OF TERMS

' feet

" inches

1" 25.4 millimetres (mm)

1m 3.281 feet

1m³ 35.315 cubic feet (cu.ft)

1m³ 424 board feet (BF)

1MBF 2.36 cubic metres (m³)

**AHEP** American Hardwood Environmental Profile. Consignment-specific shipping document providing information to demonstrate the legality and sustainability of the U.S. hardwood species contained in that shipment including quantitative data on the environmental impacts associated with delivering it anywhere in the world.

**BF** Board feet

**BM** Board measure

**Carbon footprint** A summary of all the greenhouse gases emitted during the making process of an object and is expressed in kilograms of carbon dioxide equivalent (kg CO<sub>2</sub> eq).

**Carbon sequestration** During growth trees absorb CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere. Once trees are harvested and processed to produce sawn lumber (or any other wood product) they continue to store this CO<sub>2</sub>. This act of storing CO<sub>2</sub> is referred to as sequestration.

**Checks** Longitudinal separation of the fibres in wood that do not go through the whole cross section. Checks result from tension stresses during the drying process.

**Compressive strength** The ability to resist a force tending to shorten a structural member by crushing the fibres longitudinally.

**CLT** Cross laminated timber

**Decay** The decomposition of wood substance by fungi (other terms: rot, dote).

**Density** Weight per unit volume. Density of wood is influenced by rate of growth, percentage of late wood and in individual pieces, the proportion of the heartwood.

**Dimensional stability** A term that describes whether a section of wood will resist changes in volume with variation in moisture content (other term: movement in performance).

**Durability** The resistance of wood to attack by decay fungi, insects and marine borers.

**FAS** Foreign Agricultural Service

**FAS grade** The highest quality NHLA lumber grade.

**FIA** Forest Inventory and Analysis programme. The FIA tracks the growth of individual American hardwood species each year, by county, across hardwood producing states in America.

**Figure** The pattern produced in a wood surface by annual growth rings, rays, knots, deviations from regular grain, such as interlocked and wavy, and irregular colouration.

**Flitch** A log or part of a log trimmed and prepared for conversion into veneers, or part of a converted log suitable for further conversion.

**Glulam** Glue laminated timber

**Grain** The direction, size, arrangement, appearance, or quality of the fibres in sawn wood. Straight grain is used to describe lumber where the fibres and other longitudinal elements run parallel to the axis of the piece.

**Gum pocket** An excessive local accumulation of resin or gum in the wood.

**Hardness** The resistance of wood against indentation and abrasion. Values are given in Newtons (N) and are a measure of the load required to embed an 11.3mm steelball to one half its diameter in the wood.

**Hardwood** A description applied to woods from deciduous and evergreen broad-leaved trees (Angiosperms). The term has no reference to the actual hardness of the wood.

**Heartwood** The inner layers of wood in growing trees that have ceased to contain living cells. Heartwood is generally darker than sapwood, but the two are not always clearly differentiated.

**Kilning** The process of drying lumber artificially under scientifically controlled conditions. Kilns are the chambers used for this process.

**LCA** Life cycle assessment, usually environmental. A science based measurement system involving the collection of data on all the inputs and outputs of material, energy and waste associated with a product over its entire life cycle to calculate the environmental impact.



**Lumber** The American term for converted wood or sawn timber. Lumber mills and sawmills are terms used to describe the processing units that carry out this conversion.

**m** metres

**m<sup>2</sup>** square metres

**m<sup>3</sup>** cubic metres

**Material replenishment** A figure which represents the amount of time it takes for natural regrowth across the entire American hardwood forests, to replace the volume of harvested timber used in certain creative projects.

**MBF** Thousand board feet

**mm** millimetres

**Modulus of elasticity** An imaginary stress necessary to stretch a piece of material to twice its length, compress it to half its length. Values for the individual species are given in megapascals (MPa – equivalent to N/mm<sup>2</sup>).

**Modulus of rupture** The equivalent fibre stress at maximum load. A constant used in structural design and obtained by loading pieces of wood to destruction.

**Moisture content (MC)** The weight of water contained in wood expressed as a percentage of the weight of the oven dry wood.

**N** Newtons

**NHLA** National Hardwood Lumber Association

**PAR** Planed (surfaced) all round (same as S4S)

**Pith flecks** Pith-like irregular discoloured streaks of tissue in wood, due to insect attack on the growing tree.

**Quarter/rift sawn** Lumber that is cut from the log on or near to the radial axis to produce edge, straight or vertical grain patterns.

**RWL** Random widths and lengths

**S2S** Surfaced (planed) 2 sides

**S4S** Surfaced (planed) four sides (same as PAR)

**Sapwood** The outer zone of wood in a tree, next to the bark. Sapwood is generally lighter in colour than heartwood but lacks resistance to decay.

**Shrinkage** The contraction of wood fibres caused by drying below the fibre saturation point (usually around 25-27% MC). Values are expressed as a percentage of the dimension of the wood when green.

**SM** Surface measure

**Specific gravity** The relative weight of a substance compared with that of an equal volume of water. S.G. values given are based on wood volume at 12% MC and oven dry weight.

**Split** Separation of the fibres in a piece of wood from face to face (other term: end-split).

**Stain** A variation from the natural colour of the wood or a discoloration that may be caused by micro-organisms, metal or chemicals. The term also applies to materials used to impart colour to the wood.

**Surfaced** The American term that is used to describe lumber that has been planed.

**Tally** The American term for lumber measure. (Green tally refers to measurement before kilning and net tally to measurement after kilning.)

**Tensile strength** The ability to resist a force acting on a member and tending to lengthen the member or pull the fibres apart lengthwise.

**Texture** Determined by relative size and distribution of the wood elements. Described as coarse (large elements), fine (small elements) or even (uniform size of elements).

**Warp** Distortion in lumber causing departure from its original plane, usually developed during drying. Warp includes cup, bow, crook and twist.

**Weight** The weight of dry wood depends upon the cellular space, i.e. the proportion of wood substance to air space. Values are given for each species in kg/m<sup>3</sup> at 12% MC.



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The Smile by Tom Donald

Endless Stair by Judith Stichtenoth

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Mit Mat Mama by Adrià Goula

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Heydar Aliyev Airport by Sergio Ghetti

Church Crescent by Jaine Airey

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Erasmus Medical Centre by Bart Gosselin

Worth Abbey by Edmund Sumner

Essay 4 by Jaime Navarro

The Linbury Theatre by Hufton and Crow

The Butler by Giovanni Nardi



# CONTACTS

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For over 30 years the American Hardwood Export Council (AHEC) has been at the forefront of international wood promotion, successfully building a distinctive and creative brand for U.S. hardwoods. AHEC's global programme secures a future for American hardwoods by demonstrating the performance and aesthetic potential of these sustainable materials, while providing valuable creative inspiration and technical assistance.

From Washington, DC and six overseas offices, strategically located in key hardwood markets, AHEC conducts a worldwide non-profit promotion programme with activities in more than 35 countries. All programmes are run through the joint efforts of the U.S. hardwood industry and the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

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**Europe**  
[europe@americanhardwood.org](mailto:europe@americanhardwood.org)

**China & Southeast Asia**  
[info@ahec-china.org](mailto:info@ahec-china.org)

**India (also Nepal,  
Bangladesh & Sri Lanka)**  
[india@americanhardwood.org](mailto:india@americanhardwood.org)

**Middle East & Africa**  
[mena@americanhardwood.org](mailto:mena@americanhardwood.org)

**Mexico & Latin America**  
[info@ahec-mexico.org](mailto:info@ahec-mexico.org)

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The export industry we represent is made up of companies, many still family owned, that are either sawmills, veneer producers, moulding and flooring producers, traders with concentration yards and kilns or combinations thereof. Together this industry exports in baulk (by container) to over 50 countries worldwide more than 20 commercially available hardwood species.

AHEC is a voice for the hardwood industry in export markets and represents the committed American hardwood exporters and the major U.S. hardwood product trade associations.

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## ASSOCIATION PARTNERS:

**American Walnut Manufacturers  
Association  
(AWMA)**  
[www.walnutassociation.org](http://www.walnutassociation.org)

**Decorative Hardwood  
Associations  
(Formerly HPVA)**  
[www.decorativehardwoods.org](http://www.decorativehardwoods.org)

**Western Hardwood Association  
(WHA)**  
[www.westernhardwood.com](http://www.westernhardwood.com)

**Appalachian Hardwood  
Manufacturers, Inc.  
(AHMI)**  
[www.appalachianwood.org](http://www.appalachianwood.org)

**National Hardwood Lumber  
Association  
(NHLA)**  
[www.nhla.com](http://www.nhla.com)

**Northeastern Loggers' Association  
(NELA)**  
[www.northernlogger.com](http://www.northernlogger.com)

**Hardwood Manufacturers Association  
(HMA)**  
[www.hardwoodinfo.com](http://www.hardwoodinfo.com)

**National Wood Flooring Association  
(NWFA)**  
[www.woodfloors.org](http://www.woodfloors.org)

**Wood Component Manufacturers  
Association  
(WCMA)**  
[www.woodcomponents.org](http://www.woodcomponents.org)