

Lodgepole Pine The Practical Wood

The tree grows in the interior of British Columbia and in western Alberta; It is also found in adjacent areas in the southern Yukon and Northwest Territories. It is noted for its tall, straight form and usually grows in pure stands, attaining heights up to 30 m (100ft) and diameters up to 60 cm (2 ft).

Bright and beautifully workable, Lodgepole Pine ranks with the best of the pines.

Named after its historic use in the winter lodges of North American Indians, Lodgepole Pine continues to play a practical role as a wood that can handle a variety of assignments and meet high standards. With its clean good looks, outstanding working qualities and ready availability, Lodgepole Pine is firmly established as a first class joinery wood for furniture, windows, louvered doors and shutters, panelling, siding, mouldings and other architectural millwork and joinery items.

Manufacturers and consumers alike find Lodgepole Pine's natural light colour both attractive and distinctive, with the pale yellow sapwood in subtle yet definite contrast with the slightly reddish heartwood. The wood's intergrown knots, a characteristic of the species, are generally small and sound. It readily accepts and hold all types of paints, stains, oils, lacquers and enamels. Lodgepole Pine is often called Canadian Redwood in the United Kingdom and other European markets because of its close similarity in appearance and properties to Scandinavian Redwood (*Pinus sylvestris*), for which it may be readily substituted for similar applications.

Soft texture and fine straight grain are key ingredients in Lodgepole Pine's excellent working properties, which are ranked highly among world softwoods. The wood machines cleanly and evenly to fine tolerances without splitting or splintering. Lodgepole Pine works well with hand or power tools and takes nails readily and holds them securely. Lodgepole Pine seasons easily with little shrinkage and checking, and when dry remains dimensionally stable. Lodgepole Pine is much admired by furniture makers who appreciate the wood's good workability, excellent strength to weight ratio, and stability in use. All these qualities are put to good use in the manufacture of ready-to-assemble furniture components, a major use for Lodgepole Pine and an area in which it is proving more than equal to the high performance standards demanded by quality conscious manufacturers and customers. This combination of attractive appearance, practical working properties and consistent quality increasingly make Lodgepole Pine the preferred choice for other joinery uses, such as windows, door frames and louvers, where components must be precision milled with joints that fit precisely while retaining their integrity over the long term.

As an interior panelling wood, Lodgepole Pine follows in a long and distinguished North American building tradition that has spanned several centuries and a number of architectural styles.

Designated by the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) as a treatable species, Lodgepole Pine is one of the prime species used by the Canadian treating industry. The wood's uniform cell structure facilitates deep, even penetration which enhances the in-service life and appearance of the treated wood. Preservative treated Lodgepole Pine is used extensively for decks, fences, preserved wood foundations and many other outdoor applications where treated wood is specified.

In addition to its use as a fine joinery wood, Lodgepole Pine is a structural lumber included in the Spruce-Pine-Fir species group. The short growing season and relatively slow growth cycle assist in the production of the fine grain and even texture that make Lodgepole Pine particularly notable for its consistent high quality. And with a timber resource of 1.2 billion cubic metres of mature Lodgepole Pine, the interior forest industry is well positioned to supply and satisfy long-term demand for this practical and versatile wood.