

YELLOW CEDAR

{*Chamaecypris nootkatensis*}

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

A species quite unique to this corner of the world, it grows so slowly that it requires over 200 years to reach a marketable size. It is a medium sized tree growing up to 24 metres tall and 90 cm in diameter when mature. It often grows singly or in small clumps in a mixture with other conifers. It is a rare and beautiful tree that is tough, solid and extremely durable.

COMMON USES

This wood is incredibly easy to work and therefore is prized for applications such as joinery and carpentry, decorative panelling, furniture, mouldings and cabinetwork.

Yellow cedar is one of the world's most durable woods with exceptional longevity. Its fine, even texture makes it a top choice for carvings and turnings. In India, it has proven popular for door frame manufacturing.

PHYSICAL PROPERTIES

STIFFNESS / MOE (MPa)	Air Dry	10200
STRENGTH / MOR (MPa)	Air Dry	80
DENSITY (kg/m ³)	Air Dry	431
COMPRESSION PARALLEL (Mpa)	Air Dry	45.9
SHEAR (Mpa)	Air Dry	9.21
SHRINKAGE (air dried - 12%)	Tangential / Radial ratio	1.6

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

OF INTEREST:

- Proper name is Yellow cypress
- Closest relatives are Japanese Hinoki and Port Orford cedar
- Density across single growth rings is quite uniform making this a very good carving and woodworking species



WORKING PROPERTIES

Yellow cedar is known for its exceptional working properties and can be easily machined and finished. It turns, planes and shapes well and can be sanded

to a smooth finish. The wood glues satisfactorily, has good nail and screw holding ability, and takes a good finish.

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



For more information on the availability of yellow cedar, please contact: info@canadianwood.in



Data for this factsheet has been compiled by FPInnovations from internal and external scientific sources. FPInnovations is a not-for-profit technical research institute serving the Canadian forest sector.



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