



Western Red Cedar in all its glory

Canadian Wood (British Columbia) will feature an outdoor gazebo in Western Red Cedar, between Halls 2 and 3 at the IndiaWood 2016 venue. It will stand testimony to the Canadian species' great outdoors ability and versatility. Queries on the construction of the gazebo and Canadian wood species will be addressed by personnel manning the BCFII booth.

Western Red Cedar (*Thuja plicata* Donn) grows at low to mid elevations along the coast and in the wet belt of the interior of B.C., where the climate is cool, mild and moist. It is a large tree, up to 60 metres tall when mature, and 2.5 metres in diameter.

It is often found alongside Douglas-Fir, Sitka Spruce, Black Cottonwood and Red Alder, and is rarely found in pure stands. Western Red Cedar makes up approximately 8% of B.C.'s total growing stock, and is one of Canada's most commercially valuable species.

Many applications

Due to its unique properties Western Red Cedar products have been developed for a variety of applications. It is a popular wood for outdoor furniture and playground equipment, besides interior applications.

This wood is popular for sash, doors and windows, ceiling and wall panelling, as well as for millwork. Due to its dimensional stability it is perfectly suited to uses such as sauna panelling, mouldings and window blinds. It is also a good choice for musical instruments due to its superb acoustic resonance properties.

The main benefit of Western Red Cedar is its excellent durability and dimensional stability, leading to uses such as roof shingles, exterior siding, exterior cladding, decking, weather

boarding, green houses, portable buildings, poles, posts, fences, ship and boat building, as well as for boxes and crates.

Western Red Cedar is a fairly lightweight wood, which is moderately soft and low in strength. It is known for its excellent working properties, and its ability to take a smooth, satiny finish.

It is relatively easy to work, with good machining qualities. It planes and shapes well and can be sanded to a smooth finish. The wood glues easily, has moderate nail and screw holding ability, and takes a good finish.

Hot-dipped galvanized or stainless steel nails are recommended for use with Western Red Cedar as the acidity of the extractives in the wood can accelerate the corrosion of metals and leave a black stain when the wood is wet.

It is essential that stainless steel, brass, aluminium, copper or metals with a protective coating be used when applying fittings, fixtures or fasteners to Western Red Cedar products.

For more information on the availability of Western Red Cedar and B.C. wood products, email info@bcfii.in.

Did You Know?

- Western Red Cedar is the official tree of the province of British Columbia
- The largest living tree in Canada is a Western Red Cedar with a 5.9-metre diameter
- Because of its natural decay resistance even dead Red Cedar trees can remain sound in the forest for over 100 years.