

HARDWOODS



MAPLE - The hard maple is the state tree of Wisconsin, Vermont, New York and West Virginia. In the North, during the cold nights and warm days of late winter, the sugar maple is tapped for its sucrose-containing sap, the source of maple syrup. It may take up to 30 gallons of sap to make one gallon of syrup. Early American settlers used maple ashes to make soap and Native Americans crafted their spears from hard maple. Until the turn of the century, the heels of women's shoes were made from maple. Maple has been a favorite of American furniture makers since early Colonial days. Hard maple is the standard wood for cutting boards because it imparts no taste to food and holds up well.

The sapwood is creamy white with a slight reddish brown tinge and the heartwood varies from light to dark reddish brown. The amount of darker brown heartwood can vary significantly according to growing region. Both sapwood and heartwood can contain pith fleck. The wood has a close fine, uniform texture and is generally straight-grained, but it can also occur as "curly," "fiddleback," and "birds-eye" figure.

Hard maple dries slowly with high shrinkage, so it can be susceptible to movement in performance. Pre-boring is recommended when nailing and screwing. With care it machines well, turns well, glues satisfactorily, and can be stained to an outstanding finish. It polishes well and is suitable for enamel finishes and brown tones.

Its primary applications include flooring, furniture, paneling, ballroom and gymnasium floors, kitchen cabinets, worktops, table tops, butchers blocks, toys, kitchenware and millwork: stairs, handrails, mouldings, and doors.

Much of our maple is certified through the Forest Stewardship Council. FSC® Maple possesses good strength properties; in particular it demonstrates high resistance to abrasion and wear. In addition, it also has good steam-bending properties.



POPLAR - Yellow poplar trees grow taller than any other U.S. hardwood species and they are members of the magnolia family. The bark leaves flowers and fruit, and its roots contain pharmaceuticals.

Poplar is the state tree of Indiana, Kentucky and Tennessee. In addition, it grows throughout the eastern United States. Tree heights can often reach 150 feet.

It is primarily used in light construction, furniture crafting, kitchen cabinets, doors, musical instruments, siding, paneling, moldings and millwork, edge-glued panels, turnings, and carvings.

The sapwood is creamy white and may be streaked, with the heartwood varying from pale yellowish brown to olive green. The green color in the heartwood will tend to darken on exposure to light and turn brown. The wood has a medium to fine texture and is straight-grained having a comparatively uniform texture. It is a versatile wood that is easy to machine, plane, turn, glue and bore. Poplar dries easily with minimal movement

in performance and has little tendency to split when nailed. It takes and holds paint, enamel and stain exceptionally well, and it possesses excellent strength and stability.

Since this material is such a versatile and popular species, Sterritt Lumber takes pride in stocking a variety of FSC® certified poplar.



RED OAK - The Latin name for oak, *Quercus*, means “a fine tree.” The oaks have been key in America’s industrial transformation: railroad ties, wheels, plows, looms, barrels and, of course, furniture and floors. The oak is the state tree of New Jersey.

Widespread throughout the eastern United States, the oaks are by far the most abundant species group growing in the Eastern hardwood forests. Red oaks grow more abundantly than the white oaks. The red oak group comprises many species, of which about eight are commercial. An average tree height is 60 to 80 feet.

Its primary applications include furniture, flooring, architectural millwork and mouldings, doors, kitchen cabinets, paneling and caskets.

The sapwood of red oak is white to light brown and the heartwood is a reddish brown. The wood is similar in general appearance to white oak, but with a slightly less pronounced figure due to the smaller rays. The wood is mostly straight-grained, with a coarse texture.

Red oak machines well, nailing and screwing are good although pre-boring is recommended, and it can be stained to a good finish. It can be stained with a wide range of finish tones, and it dries slowly.

The wood is hard and heavy, with medium bending strength and stiffness and high crushing strength. It is very good for steam bending, and it possesses great wear-resistance.



ALDER - Alder is another American hardwood that provides a sustainable solution for effective green design and building! Primarily abundant in the Pacific Northwest, this beautiful hardwood possesses unique properties that are very rare among hardwoods. For one, Alder is a fairly soft hardwood of low to medium density. In addition, it has both low bending strength and stiffness.

Known by the scientific name “*alnus rubra*,” this wood actually turns color when exposed to the air: nearly white when cut but then gaining a reddish tint upon exposure to the elements. Because there is virtually no discernible difference between heartwood and sapwood, it has a pleasing and uniform appearance. These very same qualities enable the woodworker a lot of flexibility to stain and finish it to resemble species like cherry and maple.

Alder is one of the best hardwoods to use for turnings and carvings as it machines exceptionally well. It nails and glues well also. It can also be sanded and painted leaving you with a very high quality product when all is said and done.

Also, nearly every portion of the alder log is used during the lumber manufacturing process. While the lumber is manufactured into fine furniture or cabinetry, the tree bark becomes mulch for the remainder of the forest!

Alder flowers blossom in the early spring. Despite their incredible beauty, the blooms contain a large amount of pollen which can cause severe reactions in people with allergies. If you suffer from pollen allergies, Alder trees should not be a part of your landscape! So do yourself a favor: use this fine material after it is harvested. If you are a craftsman who is serious about building quality furniture, cabinets, doors, or turnings, call one of our professionals today to inquire about this unique wood!



ASH - Like many American hardwoods, Ash has extremely good overall strength properties relative to its weight. This sustainable and very eco-friendly hardwood is used in manufacturing flooring, furniture, kitchen cabinets, tool handles, baseball bats, and turnings. This versatile wood is quite abundant and has a self-renewing quality that many environmentally-minded individuals can feel good about!

The sapwood is nearly white, giving this fine material a distinct and radiant color. The heartwood varies from grey to pale yellow and often appears with exotic brown streaks running through its grain. The wood is generally straight-grained with a coarse but uniform texture.

In terms of its working properties, ash machines very well. In addition, it holds nails and screws in fine fashion and can be stained to a good finish. After the staining process, it dries easily with minimal degrade. Again, like most American hardwoods, harvesting levels of this pleasing wood are far below levels of growth. So much more of this hardwood grows every year as trees are harvested in the United States. As a result, you can feel wonderful about this stately wood: not only because of its many uses, but also because of its terrific abundance and eco-friendly nature.

The professionals at Sterritt Lumber would love to further discuss this fine material, its applications, its dimensions, and its many uses. Please give us a call today!



ASPEN - In harvesting many American hardwoods, like aspen, the most popular method of bringing these beautiful materials to you is through single tree selection. Instead of clear cutting, foresters choose to fell individual trees based on numerous criteria. Hardwood forests in the United States develop into complex ecosystems that are home to a diverse number of tree species. By singling out trees in this diverse plantation, rain and sunlight are able to impact younger and smaller trees, fostering vigorous growth. Nutrients are not merely devoured by older trees, but younger and smaller trees are able to benefit greatly from this single tree selection harvesting process!

Aspen in particular, is a useful American hardwood. While its availability is sometimes limited (single tree selection assists in this), its uses and applications are incredibly diverse. Known by its Latin species name *populus tremuloides*, this fine wood is used in furniture, doors, toys, kitchen utensils, and even matchsticks. This wood is so impervious to moisture and possesses such a low conductivity of heat, that it has become a popular species in the manufacturing of sauna laths and chopsticks!

It does not split when nailed, and it takes to paint and finish very well. In fact, because its surface is slightly fuzzy after machining, sanding and staining are recommended. It possesses low to moderate shrinkage, and it has good dimensional stability. It's a beautiful sapwood is white, and the contrast between the sap and the heartwood is very small. In addition, it possesses superior nailing and screwing capabilities!

This incredible interesting and diverse material is available through the professionals at Sterritt Lumber. Please allow us to assist you with the many applications of this amazing American hardwood!



CHERRY - Cherry wood is harvested from the popularly grown fruit tree, cherry. Derived from the broad-leaved trees that shed their foliage periodically, cherry wood is grouped in the hardwood category.

Due to many qualities the wood possesses, cherry is used for making several types of wood products and has been the choice of builders and skilled wood worker for hundreds of years. Cherry wood is commonly used for flooring, paneling, high-end furniture, interior mill work, kitchen cabinets, drawer-chests, and sleighs. Furniture made with cherry is very attractive with gum streaks and other markings. Cherry wood is also used in many musical instruments and sound studios because it is a good conductor of sound.

The color of cherry heartwood is pinkish to reddish-brown, while the surrounding sapwood is cream or yellow in color. Immediately after harvesting cherry trees, the wood takes on a lighter shade. With time, it darkens to deep reddish-brown, giving a more distinguished appearance. In terms of hardness, cherry wood is moderately hard, strong and medium weight. The fine grains along with smooth texture are perfect for wood work because it easily handles most types of wood finishing. Some of the best finishes for cherry wood are natural and light alternatives. As it relates to maple, oak and other hardwoods, cherry wood is more pliable and flexible. At the same time, this elegant wood is strong and has also been found to be highly resistant to insects and mold. These qualities make it an excellent choice for flooring and home furniture. In addition, cherry is perfect for delicate woodwork because it is less stiff than other hardwoods.

By using this elegant wood, you can add value, detail, and a high level of attractiveness to your many projects



COTTONWOOD - The cottonwood—also known as true poplar—is a tall tree with a spreading crown, named for its cotton-like seeds. The diverse poplar family includes the quaking aspen, which boasts the widest range of any North American tree, and the Plains cottonwood, which was the only tree many early settlers met as they went westward through America's prairies.

Today as in centuries past, the cottonwood offers welcome shade, as its powerful trunk divides into thick branches and opens into a spreading crown. Many cottonwoods grow up to 100 feet tall, and the tree's quick growth rate and adaptability to many soils and climates have made it very useful to American people.

On the practical side, cottonwood trunks provided dugout canoes, and the tree's bark was used to produce both forage for horses and a bitter tea. In modern times, timber produced from cottonwood trees is most commonly used in making plywood, matches, crates, utensils, mouldings, and boxes.

Possessing white sapwood, this wood is generally straight-grained and contains very few defects. Its workability is only fair as this light weight wood causes a slightly fuzzy surface when it is cut. Even so, cottonwood glues exceptionally well and it takes to nailing and glueing very well.

In addition to the many uses listed above, this American hardwood is also used as the primary wood in the construction of Venetian blinds and shutters.

Cottonwood is widely available throughout the Eastern United States, and our professionals at Sterritt Lumber can source this material out for you within a very short period of time!



CYRESS - Although cypress is a softwood, since it flourishes alongside hardwoods, it traditionally has been grouped and manufactured with American hardwoods.

The overwhelming majority of cypress trees grow in the South. They thrive in wet and swampy areas along the Atlantic Coastal Plain. Cypress trees also grow in Louisiana and areas touching the Mississippi River, as well as areas near the Gulf of Mexico.

Since it grows in areas native to profound moisture, cypress wood is extremely durable used as an exterior wood. It is a popular choice among top builders for shutters, shingles, trim, fencing, beams, columns, and furniture. Commercial and residential craftsmen alike value its resistance to warping and cupping. Cypress machines well and planes easily. In addition, it takes to screws and screws very seamlessly. It also readily accepts finishes!

It is very rare that a material so durable and warp resistant can demonstrate such amazing work ability. Sterritt Lumber is proud to be a dealer of this incredible marvel of nature! As a builder, re modeler, or a homeowner, you do what New England weather can do to projects and materials. This fine wood can withstand Mother Nature at her angriest times, and still possess the stately class that one comes to expect from quality construction in this region!



ELM - Throughout history, this wood has been regarded as a tough and durable wood. In early America, wheel hubs on wagons were made from nothing but the rugged elm, and then used it to floor long-lasting wagon beds.

To show elm's versatility, in early America, Iroquois Indians used it to calm fevers with a medicine derived from the inner bark of this stately tree. Years later, players in the new game of baseball chewed this same bark to produce a sticky saliva, which when rubbed into the pocket of their glove, made balls easier to catch.

Despite its many uses, its primary fame has come from its beauty and the shade it provides. From Europe to America, elm once lined miles of city streets and country byways. Today, unfortunately, elm trees are being killed by a spreading fungus called Dutch elm disease. Efforts to control the disease haven't been successful. Fortunately, the planting of hybrid, disease-resistant trees has shown promise.

It claims about 20 species in the temperate regions of the world. The most well known include the stately American elm (*Ulmus Americana*) and the slippery elm (*Ulmus rubra*) of the United States, and the English elm (*Ulmus procera*) in Europe and Great Britain.

In the forest, elm often grows 140' tall. But open-grown elms rarely reach that height. Instead, they form a spreading, umbrella-like crown valued for shade.

The English and American elms have deeply fissured bark with crisscrossing ridges of an ash-gray color. The bark of slippery elm is the same color, but lacks pattern.

Its heartwood ranges in tone from reddish brown to light tan, while the sapwood approaches off-white. The usually dramatic grain resembles ash. Moderately dense, elm weighs nearly 40 lbs. per cubic foot dry.

Hard and tough, elm still bends easily when steamed, and when dry, holds its shape. Its twisted, interlocking grain makes elm difficult to work with anything but power tools. It also won't split when screwed or nailed, but demands drilling pilot holes. And the wood sands easily to a natural low luster.

Besides the frequent use of its veneer for paneling, furniture makers take advantage of elm's strong features for hidden furniture parts. You will often find it in chair and sofa frames, backs, and legs. However, elm's beautiful wood grain also has fine furniture possibilities. Elm works well, too, for butcher block tops and cutting boards because it has no odor or taste, and it won't split. When it contacts water, elm resists decay, so many boatbuilders use it for making planks.



GUM - Known scientifically as “liquidamber styraciflua,” gum or “sweetgum” grows widely throughout the Southeastern United States. Like many American hardwoods, gum trees are removed from the forest using single-tree harvesting.

It is one of the most important commercial American hardwoods on the market today because of its versatility. Its wood is bright reddish brown, with the sapwood nearly white. It is heavy, straight, and close-grained, but not strong. Gum takes a beautiful polish, but warps badly in drying. As such, it is recommended for exterior applications.

In the carpentry industry, the timber is referred to as satin walnut and is one of the most important materials for plywood manufacturers. It is used for furniture, interior trim, railroad ties, cigar boxes, crates, flooring, barrels, woodenware, and wood pulp. Sweetgum is very compact and fine-grained, and the heartwood is very reddish.

In terms of its working properties, gum is easy to work with when using both hand and machine tools. This lumber takes stain in a superior fashion, and it nails well. When it is stained, it can pass as a beautiful and cost effective replica of walnut.

It is used principally for lumber, veneer, plywood, fuel, and pulpwood. The lumber is made into boxes and crates, furniture, cabinets for radios, televisions, doors, and interior millwork. One of our professionals can discuss this fine product with you today! Please call us!



HACKBERRY- Hackberry, also known by others as sugarberry, is widely grown and harvested in the Eastern United States. Known scientifically as “*Celtis occidentalis*,” hackberry is truly a unique tree. This is because in terms of outward appearance, it bears a close resemblance to ash; in terms of its make up, however, it’s closest to elm with the pores arranged in waves bands which is characteristic of the elms.

Hackberry is reputed to among the very best woods for steam bending among hardwoods native to the United States and Canada.

When hackberry is cut into lumber, it is primarily used as a utility material. Used mostly in furniture, cabinets, paneling, plaques, truck flooring, millwork, and doors, this hardwood is perfect when you want to remain within a budget. Furniture manufacturers have found that this lumber makes very attractive and substantial tables and chairs. Its stability and excellent gluing properties also make it a very good core stock material. It has been very popular for the manufacture of kitchen cabinets and is used on rare occasions for turnings and carvings.

Because it has a fairly high shrinkage, hackberry is most suitable in small, short pieces. It is often used in farm tools, athletic equipment, crates, boxes and traditionally, in the south, in church pews.

Whether your hardwood needs are great or small, Sterritt Lumber can source them out for you quickly and at an affordable price. We take pride in handling even the most uncommon American hardwoods, like hackberry, to satisfy your building materials needs!



HICKORY - For centuries, hickory has maintained a positive reputation that has stood for strength, durability, and power. In many respects, it is the quintessential American hardwood because it embodies those qualities which we all like to associate with our nation. It is for these reasons that we are thrilled to handle this material at Sterritt Lumber!

The hickory tree itself is a member of the walnut family, and it is a canopy tree that is abundant in the Eastern United States.

Hickory wood is very hard, dense, and shock resistant. There certainly are woods that are stronger than hickory. In addition, there are many woods that are harder. However, the combination of strength, toughness, hardness and stiffness found in hickory wood is not found in any other commercial wood.

Scientifically known as “*Carya spp.*,” hickory is used in crafting tool handles, dowels, drumsticks, and is present as antique golf club shafts. Interestingly, even though golf clubs are now made of graphite or steel, hackers everywhere still refer to them as “hickory sticks.” In addition, baseball bats for years were made of hickory, but now many are now more commonly made of ash. It is also a popular type of flooring, and it is used in some cabinetry and furniture manufacturing.

The sapwood of this sturdy lumber is white with hints of brown, and the heartwood is pale red in many instances.

In many ways, hickory embodies all that we are about not only nationally, but also here at Sterritt Lumber. We strive to be as reliable, unyielding, and versatile as this incredible American hardwood!



SYCAMORE - Sycamore, or “buttonwood,” is a beautiful hardwood that is harvested and manufactured largely in the Eastern United States.

Similar to maple, the wood of sycamore trees is predominantly comprised of the sapwood, with some darker heartwood streaks also found in many boards. The sapwood is white to light tan, while the heartwood is a darker reddish brown. Sycamore also has very distinct flecks present on sawn surfaces—giving it a freckled appearance—and it is sometimes even called “Lacewood,” although it bears no relation to the tropical tree of the same name.

Because it has interlocking grain, sycamore lumber is very resistant to splitting. Otherwise, it machines well, and it takes to glue and stain with very positive results. One recommendation in machining: because of the interlocking grain, high speed blades should be used to cut this hardwood to prevent chipping. It is moderate in weight and hardness, and it has above average bending qualities.

Some of the uses of this versatile wood include furniture parts, flooring, millwork, and butcher blocks. It is commonly used for interior applications as it is not the most durable of the American hardwoods.

Like many American hardwoods, the sycamore tree sprouts from roots, stumps, and seeds. This assures the evolving diversity of the forest. The renewal of the hardwood forest occurs at its own pace, and the sycamore is an active participant in this process. They renew and replenish themselves naturally, and because of this, you should feel very good about working with this fine American hardwood! One of our knowledgeable professionals will be very happy to source this lumber out for you!



WALNUT - Known scientifically as “juglans nigra,” walnut is the richest and darkest of the American hardwoods in terms of its appearance. It is highly valued because it does in fact stand apart from the many other classifications of quality hardwoods.

The heartwood of Walnut is light to chocolate brown, and this material is usually steamed upon manufacturing. This darkens the sapwood. It is generally straight-grained; however, walnut will often possess waves in its grain. This adds to the attraction of this already valued timber.

American walnut is one of our finest and most cherished native woods. Prized for its rich dark color, stability and workability, it has deep, historical roots with the early settlement of this country. During that time, it was used extensively in the finest furniture and millwork of the colonial period, and it has even been proposed as our national tree!

The primary growing, harvesting, and manufacturing range of walnut is the Eastern United States, from New York through the Carolinas and west to the plains states.

In terms of applications, walnut is readily available for the manufacturing of furniture, cabinets, and flooring.

Like many of the American hardwoods, once walnut trees are taken to the mill for processing, technology assists in yielding the greatest amount of lumber from the tree. When the finished goods are made, all of the tree also possesses a use. For instance, the bark of the walnut tree is processed into mulch for growing more hardwood trees, and the sawdust can serve as fuel for the boilers that operate kilns. As a result, this distinctive and stately wood is serving many purposes. For this reason, you can feel good about the walnut tree. Yes, it possesses a rich appearance and has versatility in its applications. However, it participates in something much more important: the natural re-creation of the American forest.

Please contact us at Sterritt Lumber so we can source these incredible hardwood for your many building materials needs!