

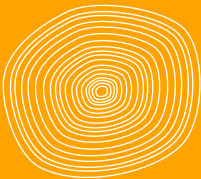
Cottonwood

Black Cottonwood A.K.A.
Pacific Coast Poplar
(*Populus trichocarpa*)

Cottonwood is a lightweight, affordable species that has good nail-holding ability. It is a versatile species used for applications including furniture, pallets, and crating. It can also be found in snowboards and caskets. Cottonwood's color ranges from ivory to white to brown with streaks, and is often used as a substitute for North American Yellow Poplar.

TYPICAL MATURE SIZE

30" - 60" diameter
(750mm - 1500mm)



80' - 150' tall
(25m - 45m)

OPTIMAL HARVEST AGE

20 - 30 years



COMMON USES



Furniture



Mouldings



Picture frames



Pallets



Crating and boxing



Cottonwood Grade Guide

Grade	Category	Lengths	Thicknesses
SEL Select & Better	Clear Appearance Clear Cutting Boards	8'1", 10'1", 12'1"	4/4, 5/4, 6/4, 8/4
1SH #1 Shop	Clear Cutting Boards	8'1", 10'1", 12'1"	4/4, 5/4, 6/4, 8/4
SCH Shop/Chop (Mix of #1 Shop and Chop)	Clear Cutting Boards Structural & Sound Cutting	8'1", 10'1", 12'1"	4/4, 5/4, 6/4, 8/4
CHP Chop	Structural & Sound Cutting	8'1", 10'1", 12'1"	4/4, 5/4, 6/4, 8/4

Workability*

Cottonwood is easy to work with hand and machine tools, though sharp cutters are necessary when planing to avoid fuzzy surfaces (subsequent fine-sanding may be necessary to obtain a smooth surface). Does not split easily and glues and finishes well.

							TOTAL
FINISHING	CHARACTER INTEREST	COLOR UNIFORMITY	MACHINING	SANDING/POLISHING	JOINT STRENGTH	GLUING	56
9	7	7	8	8	8	9	OUT OF 70

*U.S. Department of Agriculture

Hardness of Cottonwood

Comparatively, Black Cottonwood is slightly harder than the species Albus. Over the last few years nearly all Albus production has ceased, and as a result, Cottonwood has become a popular substitute. Manufacturers of value-priced furniture, and other millwork, are turning to Black Cottonwood as a suitable value species for manufacturing. Cottonwood's hardness and strength make it a preferred species in upholstered furniture frames.

A common measurement of wood hardness is the Janka hardness test. The test measures the amount of force required to embed a .444" diameter steel ball halfway into the wood. The results are shown in the table to the right.

JANKA HARDNESS SCALE

Pacific Albus Populus sp.	287lb 1280N
Bigtooth Aspen Populus grandidentata	350lb 1550N
Black Cottonwood Populus trichocarpa	350lb 1550N
American Basswood Tilia americana	410lb 1820N
Yellow Poplar Liriodendron tulipifera	540lb 2400N



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