

WOOD IDENTIFICATION GUIDE

Alder

PARAMOUNT

Crafting Exquisite Woodwork Since 1984

Common Name(s):

Red Alder, Western Red Alder

Scientific Name:

Alnus rubra

Tree Size:

100-130 ft (30-40 m) Tall
3-5 ft (.6-1 m) Trunk Diameter

Janka Hardness:

500 lb_f (2,620 N)

Modulus of Rupture:

9800 lb_f/in² (67.6 MPa)

Elastic Modulus:

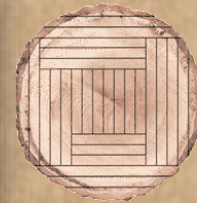
1,380,000 lb_f/in² (9.52 GPa)

Distribution Area:

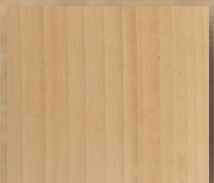
Coastal Western North America



Plain Sawn



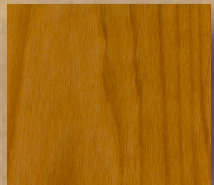
Quarter Sawn



Raw



Sealed



Color/Appearance: Alder wood typically exhibits a light tan to reddish-brown hue that deepens and intensifies over time. Notably, there is no discernible contrast between the heartwood and sapwood. The face grain may feature occasional small streaks, resembling defects, attributable to prominent large aggregate rays.

Grain/Texture: The grain is typically straight, displaying a moderately fine and uniform texture.

Workability: Red alder is very easy to work with both hand and machine tools; it sands especially easy. The wood is rather soft, however, and care must be taken to avoid denting it in some applications. Turns, glues, and finishes well.

Red alder stands as the predominant hardwood in the Pacific Northwest of the United States, holding significant commercial importance as lumber. This wood boasts commendable stability, exhibiting minimal movement once thoroughly dried for service. On occasion, it serves as a cost-effective substitute for black cherry. Due to the soft nature of Alder, it is susceptible to dents more so than other hardwoods.