

WOOD IDENTIFICATION GUIDE

Poplar

PARAMOUNT

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Common Name(s):

Poplar, Tulip Poplar

Scientific Name:

Liriodendron tulipifera

Distribution:

Eastern United States

Tree Size:

130-160 ft (40-50 m) Tall
6-8 ft (1.8-2.5 m) Trunk
Diameter

Janka Hardness:

540 lb_f (2,400 N)

Modulus of Rupture:

10,100 lb_f/in² (69.7 MPa)

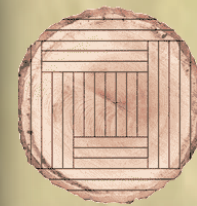
Elastic Modulus:

1,580,000 lb_f/in² (10.90 GPa)

Distribution Area:



Plain Sawn



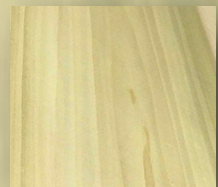
Quarter Sawn



Raw



Sealed



Color/Appearance: The heartwood of poplar wood exhibits a light cream to yellowish-brown hue, occasionally featuring streaks of gray or green. The sapwood appears pale yellow to white and may not always have a distinct boundary from the heartwood. Additionally, mineral stains can give rise to a spectrum of colors, including dark purple, red, green, or yellow, often termed as Rainbow Poplar. Over time, these colors have a tendency to deepen when exposed to light.

Grain/Texture: Poplar wood commonly exhibits a straight and uniform grain, accompanied by a medium texture. It possesses a natural luster that is generally low.

Workability: Poplar wood is remarkably easy to work with in various aspects, but its notable drawback is its softness. Owing to its low density, Poplar may result in fuzzy surfaces and edges, particularly during shaping or sanding. Achieving a smooth surface may require the use of finer grits of sandpaper during the sanding process.

Poplar stands out as one of the most prevalent utility hardwoods in the United States. While it is commonly known as "Poplar," it's important to note that it doesn't belong to the Populus genus, which includes various Cottonwood and Aspen species. Instead, Poplar is classified under the Liriodendron genus, translating to "lily tree" in Latin. The tree's blossoms bear a resemblance to tulips, leading to its alternative name: Tulip Poplar.

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