



Canada Wood
Produits de bois canadien



Ontario forest and wood products

For Asia-Pacific markets

2026 edition

Overview

Ontario's public forests are vast and provide many economic, social, and environmental benefits. They support biodiversity, wildlife habitat, and recreation. Forests also store carbon and help keep our air and water clean.

We use responsible forestry practices and a forest management planning system to keep public forests healthy and sustainable. Through sustainable forest management, they can supply wood to produce environmentally responsible forest products (see below for more on sustainable forest management).

Wood is the only major building material that grows naturally and comes from a renewable source. Many tree species in Ontario are used to create a variety of wood products.



Tree species in Ontario of interest in Asia-Pacific markets

Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*)

Extremely popular among woodworkers and consumers. A leading all-purpose furniture wood. Heavy, hard, stiff, high shock-resistance. Very good steam bending qualities. Above average in all machining operations.

Light pink to a dark reddish-brown colour. Dramatic grain pattern. Stains in a wide range of tones.

Red Oak wood is a popular and durable hardwood choice for woodworkers. Its unique grain pattern makes it a designer favourite. Can be used in any application. Commonly used in cabinetry, flooring and trim, and furniture.



Red oak flooring by South Bruce Flooring



Red Oak tree



Red oak cabinet

Sugar Maple

(hard maple, *Acer saccharum*)

Heavy, strong, stiff. Resists shock and marring. Excellent working properties. Takes a variety of stains and finishes well. Very good bending qualities.

Sapwood is ivory white with a slightly reddish-brown tinge. Heartwood is light greyish brown to dark tan. The sapwood is more valuable and more expensive than the heartwood.

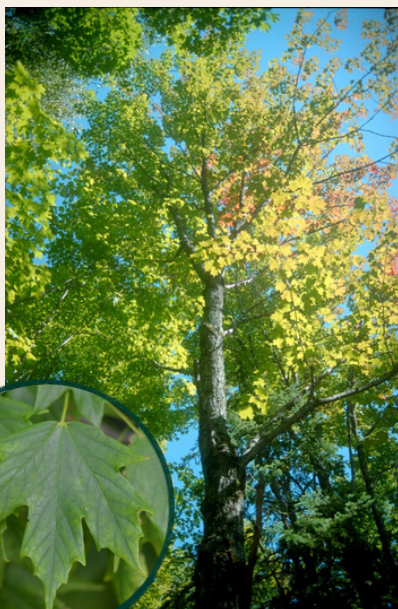
Wood from Sugar Maple is used for mouldings, architectural millwork, furniture, cabinetry, flooring, cutting boards, countertops, and other interior finishes; bowling lanes; veneer; charcoal; musical instruments; and sports equipment.



Table made from sugar maple by Hamilton Holmes Furniture & Millwork



Hard maple basketball court flooring, original colour (right) and stained (left)



Sugar Maple tree

Birdseye Maple

Not a different species, but a unique, natural grain variation of the hard maple tree. A distortion in the tree's fibre alignment produces a series of small concentric circles, creating its characteristic figure. Highly praised by fine cabinetmakers.





Red Maple

(soft maple, *Acer rubrum*)

A different species from hard maple. Has similar grain pattern, 25% softer, slightly lighter colour, not as impact-resistant.

Pale to almost white in the sapwood. Heartwood is grey to pale reddish brown with characteristic brown streaks.



Heartwood



Sapwood

Stains very well and produces a smooth finish. Most commonly used for furniture making (often stained or painted), mouldings and architectural millwork. Turnings, carves well (as in Louis XIV style).



Cabinet moulding



Red Maple tree



Soft maple carved decor



Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*)

Moderately heavy, strong, rather hard, stiff. Shrinks less and holds finishes better than any other wood. Very stable. Unsurpassed in its finishing qualities.

Highly praised heartwood varies from rich/deep red to reddish brown. Sapwood is white to light yellowish cream.

Black Cherry has historically been a popular choice for fine carpentry due to its workability and unique colour. The presence of cherry in a home or office setting imparts feelings of elegance and exclusivity. It is commonly used in high-end furniture, cabinetry, interior finishes including flooring and trim, furniture, and musical instruments.



*Live edge Cherry coffee table by
Cherrywood Studio*



Black Cherry tree



Black Cherry leaves



*Cherry charcuterie board by
80 Grit Woodworking*



Yellow Birch

(*Betula alleghaniensis*)

Heavy and hard. High in shock-resistance. Machines easily, bends well, turns well.

Sap birch (all sap or whitewood cuttings) or red birch (all heart wood cuttings) are both specified because of the distinct colour difference. Sapwood is creamy white to light yellow; heartwood is reddish brown.

Good, versatile all-purpose wood. Has many applications and is a favourite for its "natural" look. The wood from Yellow Birch is used for furniture and veneer, doors and cabinet making, plywood, and flooring.



Yellow birch shelves



Yellow Birch tree



Yellow birch plywood



White Birch

(Betula papyrifera)

Also called paper birch. Tends to be whiter than yellow birch. Similar characteristics as soft maple is to hard maple. Slightly lighter and softer than yellow birch.

Creamy white sapwood and pale brown heartwood. Shapes, bends, turns and stains very well. Often bleaches different shades for different effects.

Used for specialties like popsicle sticks, toothpicks, clothespins, woodenware, hockey stick blades. Has come into its own in strong and economical furniture lines.



White birch utensils



White birch dowel by Monaghan Lumber



White Birch tree



Laminate white birch



Poplar

(Aspen, *Populus tremuloides*)

Light in weight, soft, and moderate strength. Easy to work with, takes paints and stains quite well.

Sapwood is creamy white; heartwood is greyish brown to greyish white. The transition from heartwood to sapwood is usually not distinct.



One of the most affordable woods due to the trees' fast growth. Can be used for mouldings, core stock for doors, framing, caskets, Venetian blinds, wooden cookware, interior cabinet parts.



Poplar tree



Poplar mouldings by Monaghan Lumber



Poplar carved decor

Eastern White Pine

(Pinus strobus)

A classic choice for woodworkers, known for being tender, easy to work with and having a warm, natural look.

Heartwood is a light brown, sometimes with a slightly reddish hue, while sapwood is creamy white. Its straight grain makes it simple to cut and shape.

Eastern White Pine is a popular lumber species. Its wood can also be used for interior finishes, mouldings, cabinetwork, doors, windows, siding, panelling, and specialty woodworking projects.



Eastern white pine furniture leg



Eastern white pine siding by Monaghan Lumber



Eastern White Pine tree



Interior door made from Eastern white pine

See the technical data section below for more details.

Wood products

Using Ontario trees, a variety of products are made from:

Solid wood

- Softwood and hardwood lumber, usually classified by species and grade.



Engineered wood

- Oriented strand board, laminated strand board, and mass timber products like cross-laminated timber and glue-laminated timber (glulam).



Bio-based materials

- A diverse range of products like forest biofibre and mill by-products that can be used in construction such as for insulation, membranes, and additives.



Sustainable Forest Management

In Canada, a suite of federal legislation—including the Species at Risk Act, the Migratory Birds Convention Act, and the Fisheries Act—applies to forestry practices across the country.

Provinces and territories create and enforce most rules governing forest planning, harvesting, forest regeneration, and the protection of water, soil, wildlife, and species at risk.

Forest companies operate under these laws. Many also participate in voluntary third party certification programs to demonstrate responsible forest management.

Ontario's forest policy framework

[Sustainable forest management](#) in Ontario focuses on keeping forests healthy over the long term while providing social, economic, and environmental benefits. The sustainability of public forests is built directly into Ontario's laws and policies.

Ontario manages its forests through [laws, regulations, and policies](#) that rely on science, ongoing improvement, and input from Indigenous communities and the public.

The *Crown Forest Sustainability Act* is the foundational law. It defines sustainability and requires that public forests are managed responsibly to limit impacts on water, soil, air, plants, and wildlife.

Tools and oversight within the framework

Effective and responsible forest management in Ontario includes:

- **Forest management plans**, which set sustainable harvest and regeneration levels. Registered Professional Foresters prepare these plans with input from Indigenous communities, local citizens, and the public. Each plan must be approved by the ministry.
- **Responsible forestry practices** that protect biodiversity, wildlife habitat, soil, water, and cultural heritage.

- **Compliance programs and independent forest audits** that ensure operations follow laws and regulations.
- **Forest trusts** to supply dedicated funding for regeneration.

Forest tenure

Forest tenure determines who manages public forests and who can use the wood. It is a legal arrangement that sets out the rights and responsibilities of forestry companies and other forest users.

Most public forests are managed by Sustainable Forest Licence (SFL) holders. SFL holders manage the forest, prepare forest management plans and carry out forestry operations. When there is no SFL holder, the ministry manages the forest directly.

The forest policy framework does not apply to private land, but Ontario promotes sustainable practices on private forests through the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program.

Adaptive management and continuous improvement

Ontario uses an adaptive management approach—planning, implementing, monitoring, evaluating, and adjusting—to continually refine forest policies and practices.

As new science, traditional ecological knowledge, and implementation experience emerge, policies and plans are reviewed and updated.

Accountability and transparency

Ontario is committed to maintaining public transparency in sustainable forest management. We regularly publish [forest facts](#) and [reports](#), including a suite of indicators that show the state of our forests, such as:

- forest composition, growth, wildlife habitat, and forest carbon
- harvest and regeneration
- public engagement and Indigenous involvement in forest management planning
- forest sector employment and resource revenue sharing with Indigenous communities
- forest sector products and exports, and
- forest certification, audits, and compliance

Industry strengths

Ontario's forest sector operates under the requirements of our forest policy framework. It follows rigorous processes and standards to:

- protect the environment and biodiversity, demonstrated by high compliance with our sustainable forest management requirements
- involve First Nations, Métis, and the public
- consider how all users value the forest
- responsibly harvest forests within approved levels
- renew forests to ensure harvested forest remains a forest, with no change in land use (such as development or urbanization)

Additionally, many forests managed by industry are certified by a voluntary, third-party process. This helps verify responsible forest management by comparing forest practices against established certification standards. Getting certified can help companies:

- show that their practices meet internationally recognized standards
- build credibility with customers and maintain access to markets

Whether certified or not, public forests are sustainably managed under Ontario's forest laws and policies.



Technical data

Physical properties					
	Specific Gravity (at 12% moisture content)	Density kg/m3	Hardness (Load required to imbed 11.3 mm sphere to half its diameter)	Static Bending: Modulus of Rupture(megapascals) bending strength	Static Bending: Modulus of Elasticity (megapascals) stiffness
Red Oak	0.612	690	6170	98.7	11,900
Sugar Maple	0.659	740	7290	115.0	14,100
Red Maple	0.545	610	4380	97.6	11,100
Black Cherry	0.551	610	4630	87.1	11,900
Yellow Birch	0.608	670	5930	106.0	14,100
White Birch	0.571	640	4320	94.8	12,900
Poplar	0.408	450	2140	67.6	11,200
Eastern White Pine	0.35	368	1650	65	9,380

Excellent 5 Very good 4 Good 3 Fair 2

Relative working properties

	Machin-ability	Stability	Gluing	Sanding	Nail & Screw holding	Paint holding	Staining
Red Oak	5	4	3	3	5	3	3
Sugar Maple	5	3	3	4	3	3	3
Red Maple	4	3	3	4	3	3	4
Black Cherry	5	3	4	5	2	3	4
Yellow Birch	5	3	3	3	3	3	4
White Birch	4	3	3	3	3	3	4
Poplar	3	2	3	2	2	3	3
Eastern White Pine	4	4	3	2	2	3	3