

# WESTERN RED CEDAR

Western Red Cedar (*Thuja plicata*) is one of the most important conifers in the Pacific Northwest, ranging from the Alaskan panhandle all the way down the Pacific Coast to Central California. It is known for its distinctive lined bark and aromatic scent, as well as for reaching enormous sizes of up to 230 feet in height and 13 feet in diameter.

Western Red Cedar has been deemed the cornerstone of northwest coast Indigenous culture due to its invaluable rot-resistance, ease of splitting, and rich warm colors. These properties made it perfect for cultural items including dugout canoes, paddles, house planks, baskets, spears, arrow shafts, and many other implements. These very same characteristics have proven incredibly useful for modern exterior applications, which often withstand many years of outdoor exposure.

## PEOPLE & PLANET

Our Western Red Cedar is harvested through forest restoration programs like the on-going project at Ellsworth Creek Preserve in Southern Washington. The Nature Conservancy purchased the entire watershed to protect its native salmon, amphibians, and birds, and to restore the old growth conditions of the forest.

Much of this restoration work, at Ellsworth Creek and at other similar properties in our area, is done through strategic thinning to reduce the number of trees per acre. After decades of clear-cutting, forests through the Pacific Northwest are left over-crowded, with resulting stress and poor health. Super-selective thinning in strategic areas helps to alleviate this pressure and restore old growth conditions. The cedar lumber that results from these programs is certified by the Forest Stewardship Council.



## SPECIES STATS

- » **Janka rating: 350**
- » **Lumber dimensions:**
  - 1X, 2X, 4X, 6X, and custom sizes available
- » **Recommended uses:**
  - Exterior siding and soffit material
  - Decking
  - Fencing
  - Pergolas, arbors, and other outdoor accents