

# Wood Id Key for 15 Native Hardwood species

## Porous Hardwoods:

1. Ring porous go to 4.
2. Semi-ring porous go to 7.
3. Diffuse porous go to 8.
- 4a Broad rays visible in tangential surface without hand lens. Go to 5.
- 4b. Broad rays not visible in tangential surface without hand lens go to 6.
  
- 5a. Majority of rays in the tangential surface less than 3/4" = **Red Oak**
- 5b. Majority of rays in the tangential surface greater than 3/4" = **White Oak**
  
- 6a. Wormholes may be present, pores are oval in shape = **American Chestnut**
- 6b. Latewood pores connected in wavy bands = **Ash**
  
- 7a. Extremely dark brown in color = **Black Walnut**
- 7b. Wavy bands of parenchyma = **Hickory**
  
- 8a. Rays distinct with naked eye in the tangential surface go to 9.
- 8b. Rays not distinct with naked eye in the tangential surface go to 10.
  
- 9a. Rays barely visible to naked eye, look as very small little red lines in the tangential surface, very dense, hard to cut and scratch with thumbnail, creamy white to pale brown in color, very fine texture, large rays mixed with many smaller rays in between in the cross-section = **Hard Maple**
- 9b. Large broad rays in tangential surface, largest of the diffuse porous group, rays look similar on the tangential surface as they do on the radial surface, dense difficult to scratch with thumbnail, reddish pale brown in color, a zone of dense material in the latewood portion of growth ring = **American Beech**
- 9c. Numerous short little rays on the tangential surface, latewood portion on the annual growth ring white in color, probably has significant ray fleck = **Sycamore**
  
- 10a. Green cast, can have dark green and black streaks, fairly soft easy to scratch with thumbnail, sapwood white in color, annual growth ring are delineated by light colored whitish marginal parenchyma = **Yellow Poplar**
- 10b. Orange to maroon color, gum pockets may be present, a distinct line of pores along the earlywood portion of the annual growth ring = **Black Cherry**
- 10c. Very soft, the softest of all the woods in this group, very easily scratched with thumbnail, pale tan in color, brown streaks are common, when the cross-section surface is cut with razor the cut may feel like velvet when rub with finger, white specks may appear in annual growth ring = **American Basswood**
- 10e. May have a grayish or even bluish cast, medium density, rays very even in size and evenly distributed, pore diameter and ray width nearly the same = **Soft Maple**
- 10f. Annual growth rings may not be distinct. Pore diameters are larger than the ray widths and well separated from each other, color light to reddish brown = **Birch**
- 10g. Medium density, interlocked grain common, pores are numerous and small, growth rings are not distinct even with hand lens, many small rays in the cross-section = **Sweetgum**

## Wood Id Key for 5 Native Softwood species

### Non-porous Softwoods:

1. Resin canals present go to 3.
2. Resin canals not present go to 4.
  - 3a. Soft easy to scratch with thumbnail, transition between earlywood and latewood gradual = **White Pine**
  - 3b. Hard difficult to scratch with thumbnail, transition from earlywood to latewood abrupt = **Southern Yellow Pine**
- 4a. Deep purple to red aging to reddish brown, density is medium to soft, texture is very fine and smooth, has a cedar chest smell = **Eastern Red Cedar**
- 4b. Earlywood to latewood transition is abrupt, earlywood is medium yellow brown, latewood amber to dark brown, texture is course, has a slight but distinctive smell, latewood very difficult to cut through = **Baldcypress**
- 4c. Transition is fairly abrupt to gradual = **Hemlock**