technology transfer *fact sheet*

Center for Wood Anatomy Research
USDA Forest Service • Forest Products Laboratory • One Gifford Pinchot Drive • Madison, Wisconsin 53705–2398

Juniperussilicicola
Family: Cupressaceae
Southern Redcedar

Southern redcedar is one species of about 50 in the genus *Juniperus*, native to North America [14], Central America [11], West Indies [5], Bermuda [1] and the Old World [25]. The word *juniperus* is the classical Latin name, while the word *silicicola* means growing in sand. Some authors place southern redcedar as a variety of eastern redcedar (*Juniperus virginiana* L.).

Other Common Names: Amerikaanse magnolia, cedre rouge americain, cedro rosso americano, coast juniper, coast red cedar, eastern red cedar, enebro rojo americano, ginepri d'america, pencil cedar, red cedar, rod-en, sand cedar, southern juniper, southern red cedar, southern red juniper, Virginian pencil cedar.

Distribution

Southern redcedar is native to the Coastal Plain of the eastern United States mostly near the coast, from northeast North Carolina south to central Florida and west to southeast Texas.

The Tree

Southern redcedar trees reach heights of 50 feet with a record of 70 feet. Heights of virgin trees along Apalachee Bay (FL) may have been more than 100 feet.

The Wood

General

The heartwood of southern redcedar is a dull red. The wood is straight grained, light weight, soft and weak. It works and finishes well.

Mechanical Properties (2-inch standard)

	Specific Gravity	MOE Gpa	MOR MPa	Compression Parallel MPa	Compression Perpendicular MPa	WML[a] KJ/m3	Hardness N	Shear MPa
Green	0.42	6.41	57.9	30.1	6.27	61	2580	8.20
Dry	0.44	8.07	64.8	45.3	6.89	37	2713	5.17

[a]WML = Work to maximum load.
Reference (4).

Drying and Shrinkage

	Percentage of shrinkage (green to final moisture content)		
Type of shrinkage	0% MC	6% MC	20% MC
Tangential	4.0	NA	NA
Radial	2.2	NA	NA
Volumetric	7.0	NA	NA

Reference (4)(5 trees tested).

Kiln Drying Schedule: No information available at this time.

Working Properties: It is reported to work well.

Durability: No information available at this time.

Preservation: No information available at this time.

Uses: No information available at this time.

Toxicity: May cause dermatitis and respiratory problems (4, 6 & 9).

Additional Reading and References Cited (in parentheses)

1. Dallimore, W.; Jackson, A. B., and Harrison, S. G. A handbook of Coniferae and Ginkgoaceae. London, UK: Edward Arnold Ltd.; 1966.
2. Elias, T. S. The complete trees of North America, field guide and natural history. New York, NY: van Nostrand Reinhold Co.; 1980.
3. Hausen, B. M. Woods injurious to human health. A manual. New York, NY: Walter de Gruyter; 1981.
4. Little, Jr. E. L. Checklist of United States Trees (Native and Naturalized). Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, USDA, Forest Service, Agriculture Handbook No. 541; 1979.
5. Markwardt, L. J. and Wilson, T. R. C. Strength and related properties of woods grown in the United States. Washington, DC: USGPO, USDA Forest Service, Tech. Bull. No. 479; 1935.
6. Mitchell, J. and Rook, A. Botanical dermatology: plants and plant products injurious to the skin. Vancouver, BC: Greenglass Ltd.; 1979.
7. Wilhite, L. P. *Juniperus silicicola* (Small) Bailey Southern Redcedar. in: Burns, R. M. and Honkala, B. H., tech. coords. Silvics of North America. Volume 1, Conifers. Washington, DC: USDA Forest Service; 1990; pp. 127-130.
8. Woods, B. and Calnan, C. D. Toxic woods. British Journal of Dermatology. 1976; 95(13):1-97.