

Spruce.—There are five native spruce species, all of commercial importance, furnishing over one-quarter of the total production of lumber, ranking second to Douglas fir. Pulpwood made from spruce is preferred to other kinds and comprises two-thirds of the total quantity of pulpwood produced. Spruce is also used extensively for building construction, boxes, cooperage, and mining timbers. White spruce is the most abundant and most important commercially, comprising 41 p.c. of the wood used in manufacturing. Black spruce is of less value for lumber, being generally much smaller and often confined to swampy situations, but is considered superior for pulpwood.

Pine.—There are nine distinct pine species native to Canada six of which are of great commercial importance. Eastern white pine is especially valued on account of its softness, easy-working qualities, and low shrinkage. It has a wide variety of uses. This species was, up to a few years ago, the most important wood in Canada in point of quantity of lumber sawn and square timber exported, but now ranks third after Douglas fir and spruce. Western white pine has similar qualities and uses, but is less abundant. Red or Norway pine is stronger than white and is used for structural timber as well as for sawn lumber. Ponderosa or western yellow pine is used as a substitute for white pine but is more variable in quality. Jack pine and its western counterpart, the lodgepole pine, are used mainly for railway ties, poles, and rough construction.

Hemlock.—There are three hemlock species in Canada, two of which are valuable timber trees. The wood is used chiefly for railway ties, pulp, and construction.

Balsam Fir.—Four species of balsam fir are found in Canada. The wood is used extensively in the manufacture of wood-pulp and also as lumber.

Cedar.—Two species of cedar are found in Canada: white cedar, which is confined to moist situations in the East, and western red cedar, which grows to a tremendous size and is abundant in British Columbia. The wood is noted for its durability and low shrinkage and is used for all structural work exposed to the weather, such as shingles, building construction, especially greenhouses, railway ties, poles, and fence-posts.

Tamarack or Larch.—The eastern tamarack is found chiefly in swampy situations. The western species, which grows on better sites and attains considerable size, is of more importance. The wood of these two species is cut into lumber and is used also for railway ties and in general construction.

Birch.—Birch is Canada's most important hardwood. While there are at least six native species, only two are worthy of note, viz., yellow and white birch. Yellow birch is in great demand for flooring, cabinet work, and interior finish. White birch is used for veneers.

Maple.—Maple is second in importance to birch as a hardwood. There are ten species scattered throughout Canada, of which the sugar maple, or hard maple, is the most important. The lumber of this species is used for flooring, interior finish, and cabinet work, while the tree itself is the source of the sap from which maple syrup and sugar are made.

Basswood.—Basswood, being soft and easily worked, is a valuable wood for certain kinds of cabinet making.