An extraordinarily popular and versatile softwood lumber, Ponderosa Pine has the greatest growth range of any commercially important lumber species in America. It is found in abundance and produced in volume in the 11 Western states and the Black Hills of South Dakota - an area of more than 35 percent of the total land coverage of the United States. Of all the species manufactured into lumber in the Western Woods Region, Ponderosa Pine is exceptional in both supply and production. With a standing sawtimber inventory of more than 255 billion board feet, average annual output is approximately four billion board feet, assuring a plentiful supply for the foreseeable future. And the rapid advance in modern industrial forest management methods is leading to the spreading adoption of Tree Farms and forest regeneration principles by Ponderosa Pine timber owners and sawmill operators.

**Botanical Classification**

Ponderosa Pine (Pinus ponderosa) is one of the soft-textured pines - a group distinct from the southern yellow pines, which are heavier, harder and pitchier and have widely different values and uses. The soft pine species of commercial importance in the United States, in addition to Ponderosa Pine, include Idaho White Pine, Sugar Pine and Lodge Pole Pine.

Botanically, not a true white pine, Ponderosa Pine wood is classified by authorities as generally similar in properties to the white pines.

**Properties**

Ponderosa Pine is a soft-textured wood with typically straight, close and uniform grain, unexcelled for smoothness and fine appearance when surfaced, and easy to work with hand or machine tools.

The wood is light in color, varying from creamy white to straw. After dressing it presents a delicately figured grain. Specific gravity at 12 percent moisture content is 0.40, within the 0.30-0.58 range of all softwoods. At the same moisture content, the mean weight of Ponderosa Pine is 28 pounds per cubic foot, compared to the 23-41 pound variance among all softwoods.

For its weight, the wood is strong enough for most residential and light commercial building purposes. In shrinkage it is about equal to the average for all soft-textured pines. Raised grain, which develops from...
Wood is dimensionally stable, has firm knots and is smooth, uniformly nailing surfaces. The Ponderosa Pine furnishes stiffness, insulation and subflooring, both wall and roof, of Economy Siding is available in a wide range of over knots before painting. It is manufactured by more research, knotty grades of Ponderosa Pine siding may now be used without fear of paint failure caused by architectural treatments. Ponderosa Pine is generally recognized as the most versatile wood found in abundance in North America. Its uses range throughout every phase of the light construction field, it is extremely valuable to general industry and it is widely used in the woodworking field for fabricating into architectural woodwork, furniture and specialty products.

Uses

Ponderosa Pine is one of the most widely used woods for this purpose. Because of its ready workability and its exceptional adaptability to finish treatments, Ponderosa Pine is the most widely used wood for specialty cuttings such as toys, window shade slats and rollers, drawing boards, fence pickets and many other products. The uniformly grained, soft-textured wood can be cut with or across the grain with little loss. It glues well without special care.

Grading

Lumber manufactured from Ponderosa Pine is graded under current published grading rules for the Western Wood Products Association and is separated into Select, Common, Dimension, Decking and Factory (Shop) grades.