

THE TAPROOT



(P) 1-800-667-2275 - (F) 250-656-9663 - (W) www.westwindhardwood.com - (E) westwind@islandnet.com

Volume 1
October 2005
By: Shelley Nielsen

Latest News

NEW ARRIVALS!! Coco bolo (*Mexican rosewood*) and ebony.

Of Interest

Danny Schaftlein is our school rep. He has been with us "a sliver short of" two years. Knowledgeable, friendly and happy to assist either staff member or student; give him a call or email him at danny@westwindhardwood.com.

Feature Story

GROWING GREEN

Welcome to our inaugural newsletter. We hope to see this develop into a monthly occurrence, but for now please grace us the time to see ourselves through this new growth.

The argument for using wood is growing every day. There's only one building material that grows back: WOOD. West Wind Hardwood has always valued and respected wood, trees and our environment. We promote responsible use of wood and to this end; we are in the process of becoming legitimately certified under the Forest Stewardship Council program. This means we will be able to offer "chain of custody" for certified wood. Certified chain-of-custody (COC) is the principal method for assuring that forest products sold originates in sustainable forestry operations.

The FSC Canada Working Group, created in 1996, is a FSC National Initiative responsible for developing regional standards and recommending them for endorsement by FSC International. FSC Canada is designed to promote good forest management across Canada and increase the level of market participation in the FSC system through outreach, education and communications.

Our work and decisions will be governed by our Values. We value forest management that:

1. Is environmentally appropriate - ensuring that the harvest of timber and non-timber products, and other uses maintains the forest's biodiversity, productivity, and ecological processes. Forest processes and diversity and ensuring an equitable sharing of benefits from the sustainable use of forests.
2. Is socially beneficial - helping both local people and society at large to enjoy long term benefits and also providing strong incentives to local people to sustain the forest resources and

Forest Facts:

The oak forest and processing industry in France predates the Romans; and is still thriving. Oak forests are selectively logged; management is ecologically driven. The government of France has strict regulations governing harvest.

Quote of the Month:

Begin somewhere; you cannot build a reputation on what you intend to do.

Liz Smith

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adhere to long-term management plans.

3. Is economically viable - supporting forest operations and management that are sufficiently profitable yet not at the expense of the forest resource, the ecosystem, or affected communities, balancing the generation of adequate financial returns and principles of responsible forest management through efforts to market forest products and other forest uses for their best value.

We also value ***collaborative relationships and consultation*** in standards development and application that ensures:

1. Honesty, integrity, transparency and fairness in all decision-making
2. Respect and recognition for the legal and customary rights of indigenous peoples to own, use and manage their lands, territories, and resources
3. Economic accessibility of certification for landowners of all sizes.

But what has this to do with our wood; and what is COC wood?

Chain of custody certification provides a guarantee about the production of FSC-certified products. COC is the path taken by raw materials from the forest to the consumer, including all successive stages of processing, transformation, manufacturing and distribution. Certification is a voluntary process in which an independent (in our case, SmartWood) confirms that the product has been produced in accordance with specified environmental and social standards. The advantage of third party certification can be summed up with one word: "credibility". From a customer perspective, the FSC label represents a promise that is being made to them. COC standards are the mechanisms FSC has to ensure that 'promise' is delivered. To date, nearly 25 million acres of forest worldwide have been certified according to FSC standards, including 3.5 million acres in the United States.

Every building product used comes from a natural resource. Wood is an environmentally friendly material, a naturally renewable resource, and an ecologically sound choice. Choices. It comes back to choices. Give us a call and learn about your choices.

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Volume 2
December 2005
By: Shelley Nielsen

Latest News



Seasons Greetings *From the staff of* West Wind Hardwood



NEWLY ARRIVED

Forest Facts:

What's the most environmentally compatible building product in the world?

- comes from a renewable resource?
- is both durable and biodegradable?
- has the lowest energy requirements in its manufacture?
- is a natural resource that can be perpetuated for products and the environment?



4" Basswood



Bloodwood



Lacewood



Wenge



Yellowheart

Also ask about our *figured* Western Birch and Maple:



The answer: **WOOD**

Quote of the Month:

Control your impulse to multitask!...Rediscover the pleasure and efficiency one thing at a time.

Dan Beskind

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Of Interest

Joel Radford is our flooring expert. He started some years ago as a part-time student; highly recommended by his woodworking teacher at Parkland Secondary. Thoroughly knowledgeable with our *in-house* classic collection of Douglas fir flooring and all **brand name** floors, he is

pleased to help with the decision making process, whether new construction or a renovation. Please call him toll free or email him at joel@westwindhardwood.com.

"One man's junk is another man's treasure"

.....and spalted wood embodies that truism. Wood turners and wood workers alike hold it in high esteem for its natural beauty. Because spalted wood is consistently inconsistent in appearance, it is in high demand. Each piece is unique.

Spalting occurs in many species but is most commonly seen in our local woods; alder, birch and maple. The spalting process occurs at different rates for different woods and depends on climate and environmental factors. The characteristic blue-black zone lines of spalted wood form when incompatible colonies of fungi come into contact with each other and lay down barriers to separate their territories. This phenomenon represents the early stages of decay.

Producing spalted wood for the workshop is, although a hit and miss process, completely attainable. The key to stimulating wood to spalt is providing the moist, warm environment that the fungi thrive in. The most taxing challenge is calculating when to halt the process to arrest the spalting.

The simplest method to promote spalted wood, but the hardest way to control it, is to put logs into a shady wood, cover with leaves or bury in sawdust and keep moist. The sawdust can add to the colour, and while mushrooms and roots grow, they leave trails and irregularities. For better control, and in dealing with smaller sized pieces, place the wood in plastic bags and keep moist. Here are some options:

1. Seal the end grain of your selected fresh-cut piece, leave the bark on and store in a dark, moist environment. Do not use dry wood.
2. Create a 'spalting paste". Spread the paste covering the surface of a rough-turned piece. Place in a plastic bag and leave in a warm place for several weeks.

Spalting Paste #1

1 ½ tablespoons of ammonia (non-sudsing type)
1 cup of nitrogen-rich fertilizer (mixed double strength)
Oak leaves

***And like any good sourdough recipe, it doesn't hurt to have shavings from spalted material of the same species to act as a "starter".

Spalting Paste #2

1 litre or quart water
1 cup nitrogen-rich fertilizer (granules)
1 can beer
1 litre/quart manure (rich with ammonia odour)
Oak leaves

Spalting Paste #3

Any mix of nitrogen, organics, ammonia, sugar, malt extracts, tannins and leaf molds - everything necessary to stimulate all many of weird and wonderful growth.

Check after 2 months. You are looking for a black slimy mess with external growth. Mushrooms are good. However, there are no guarantees. Mother Nature can be capricious at best.

The dust created from sanding and sawing spalted wood has a toxic nature with a reputation for causing respiratory problems. More specifically, the mold/fungi can trigger severe reactions like asthma. A small percentage of the population can be expected to develop allergic sensitivity to one or more compounds found in wood. If you handle a lot of potentially toxic species, and work with them long enough, you increase your chances of a reaction. So, the best defense is to wear a dust mask or full face biologic filtering respirator and use a good dust extraction system; it doesn't hurt to have a fan blowing the dust away from your work area also.

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Volume 3
February 2006
By: Shelley Nielsen

Latest News

Forest Facts:

Use the following formula to calculate the volume of timber in a log.

3.1416 times "the radius of the trunk squared" times "the length of the log."

i.e. 20' log with a 4' diameter trunk = $3.1416 \times (2 \times 2) \times 20 = 251.328$ cu.ft.

Quote of the Month:

"Getting an idea should be like sitting down on a pin; it should make you jump up and do something."

E.L. Simpson

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Green Achievement!

West Wind Hardwood is now FSC Chain of Custody and SmartWood Rediscovered certified.

1. Forest Stewardship Council (FSC): is an international network to promote responsible management of the world's forests.



2. SmartWood Rediscovered: The intent of this program is to acknowledge, assess and certify good practices for the recovery, recycling and reuse of wood products.



Visit our [green pages](#) for more information

- [More about Green Initiatives](#)
- [More about Certified Products](#)

Of Interest

Dominic Loiacono came to us through the University Of Victoria Business Co-op Program in January 2005. He has since graduated with degrees in Commerce as well as a degree in Arts (Italian Studies). Although he continues to offer his expertise to West Wind Hardwood, he has decided to continue his education by completing an MBA program at University Canada West. Although Dominic is a man of many talents, time management must be his forte; studies; work and of course, his numerous jaunts to Europe.

Feature Story

CAUTION WOOD DUST!!!

MAY BE HAZARDOUS TO YOUR HEALTH

Sawing, sanding or machining wood products can produce wood dust, which can cause a flammable or explosive hazard.

Wood dust may cause lung, upper respiratory tract, and eye/skin irritation. Some wood species may cause dermatitis and/or respiratory allergic effects. The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) and the World Health Organization (WHO) has classified wood dust as a nasal carcinogen in humans.

Check out [Link1](#) and [Link2](#)

- avoid dust contact with ignition source
- sweep or vacuum dust for recovery or disposal
- avoid prolonged or repeated breathing of wood dust in air
- avoid dust contact with eyes and skin

It has been suggested that an unseen foe caused the death of seven soldiers during the Napoleonic Wars in 1809. Dying, not by sword or musket ball, it is suggested that the soldiers died from eating meat that had been spitted on twigs of oleander. Oleander (*Nerium oleander*) contains a deadly, soluble poison. The moral of this story: **Know Thy Wood**.

Exposure through external skin contact or inhalation or ingestion can affect us in any manner of ways either as an irritant or a sensitizer. Long-term exposure to potentially toxic species can increase your chances of a reaction. Allergic reactions are sometimes severe. Occasionally, reactions are fatal.

Take care when selecting your species for kitchen utensils and toys. Ironically, fine wines, whiskies and sheries attain their desirable flavours from wood barrels. However, some woods impart an unwanted flavour or can ooze when subjected to heat. When selecting your wood for toys, remember that infants and toddlers like to chew. Even small doses of some toxins can be lethal. Stick with wood species traditionally used, such as, maple. It is fine-textured, doesn't harbour dirt and the sugars are edible. Birch, white pine, poplar and basswood are also acceptable. Avoid walnut as it contains a natural laxative and sedative. *Clearly do not use oleander.*

Often it is the most attractive, vividly coloured and fragrant timbers that cause problems. But it is not only exotic, tropical species that are a concern. Some commonly known local species are known to be troublesome such as Western red cedar and Douglas fir. Research is far from conclusive and in constant advancement.

But don't panic. Simple precautions can reduce health risks, and minimize your exposure. And so the best defense is to wear a dust mask or full-face biologic filtering respirator and use a good dust extraction system; it doesn't hurt to have a fan blowing the dust away from your work area also. Protect your skin with gloves/protective clothing and/or protective creams. Remove splinters and slivers immediately and disinfect. If you

notice any respiratory or skin problems, check with your doctor. You may want to arrange for allergy tests.

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Volume 4

March 2006

By: Shelley Nielsen

Latest News

Forest Facts:

Douglas fir trees are among the tallest on the North American continent, second only to the coast redwoods.

They average from 150-200' in height, from 2-6' in diameter and are found at elevations ranging from sea level to 6,000 feet.

Quote of the Month:

"...to preserve and renew is almost as noble as to create."

Voltaire

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FLOORING GALLERY

Now Open In SIDNEY



Of Interest

Gerardo Balmaceda joined West Wind Hardwood in January 2006. His focus is to expand our custom flooring market both internationally and domestically. Gerardo completed his education in Engineering and MBA in Lima, Peru. He came to Victoria after spending some time in Calgary where he arrived directly from Peru on January 2004. He enjoys working in a team environment and is always willing to share ideas and learn from others. He is a bit of an engineer, a bit of a business and marketing person and a bit of a dreamer. Canada and Peru have almost the same flag that may say something to me.

Feature Story

¡¡Hola!!

It's a hot, lazy evening. That summer purple twilight has tinted the horizon, the gardens are watered and you're ready to sit back and smoke that cigar you brother brought back from Cuba. Alas, that was four months ago, and it is now dry and crisp as a cinder. What went wrong? Perhaps it's time to build a humidor?

Maintaining proper humidity is probably the single most important factor to control when storing cigars. There is a wealth of information on the "net" and everyone has an opinion. From homegrown plastic containers to elaborate professional humidors to one of your own design and creation, the right climatic condition is the key. While a professional model is certainly desirable, many find homemade versions to be quite effective while also allowing for the creative design process.

If you are reading this article you are thinking of taking a step away from the zip-loc baggie or plastic container option. Any wood can be used for decorative purposes on the exterior, but Spanish cedar is what you want for the interior. Originally Cuban cedar was used. Why? Cuba led the way in the cigar industry. Early in the 16th century, Cuban peasants became tobacco growers. Later, the cigar became the country's national symbol and the Havana cigar became recognized as the world's finest. It was a fundamental question of supply and demand, and what was close at hand. Unfortunately Cuban cedar is obsolete in today's market. Spanish cedar is on the CITES list of endangered wood species. These are the same regulations that govern your inability to bring home the adorable orang-utan from Borneo or the lovely black coral necklace from Mexico on a holiday whim. Check out CITES (Convention on International Trade for Endangered Species) at <http://www.cites.org/>.

CITES is an international agreement between Governments. Its aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival. Because the trade in wild animals and plants crosses borders between countries, the effort to regulate it requires international cooperation to safeguard certain species from over-exploitation. CITES was conceived in the spirit of such cooperation. The species covered by CITES are listed in [three Appendices](#), according to the degree of protection they need. Spanish Cedar is governed under the regulations of Appendix III. Each party involved in the trade of this species must adhere to these strict regulations and provide supporting documentation.

What were the characteristics that made Cuban and Spanish cedar desirable?

- ✓ Protection from tobacco worms through the cedar's special odoriferous quality.
- ✓ High humidity absorption capacity ensuring a stable climate.
- ✓ Supports the cigar aging process.
- ✓ Positive effect on the flavour of the cigars.

Also used, as substitutes for Spanish cedar, are Honduras mahogany (a species governed by CITES) and Western red cedar.

Although Spanish cedar stains and finishes well, its innate oils can sometimes be a problem in finishing. In most humidor applications the wood can be left unfinished allowing the wood's natural oils to add flavour to the cigars. The resin is very sticky and can usually only be removed with

acetone or alcohol. The locations where the resin appeared should be treated with fine-grained sandpaper. This cleaning process may need to be repeated 2-3 times. The sticky resin does not impair the quality of the cigars, however, it may damage the outside cigar leaves if the cigars come into direct contact with the resin. After the use of cleaning agents the humidor must be thoroughly ventilated before cigars are placed back into the humidor.

THE SCENT OF A GOOD CIGAR

I have not been able to obtain the copyright use for this great poem, however, if you are interested, I'd be happy to redirect you to the website where it resides. Let me know.....[Shelley Nielsen](#)

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Volume 5
June 2006
By: Shelley Nielsen

Latest News

DOUGLAS FIR VARIETY PACK

[Contact us](#) and mention this promotion to receive yours **at no charge!!**

Pack includes:

- Douglas Fir Flooring Sample
- Douglas Fir Seeds (with growing instructions)
- Douglas Info Package



Forest Facts:

We compete very well as a smaller player in an aggressive industry, dominated by some big players. It is our passion and the working knowledge of our product that allows for West Wind's little success story; over 25 years of successes.

Quote of the Month:

"People underestimate their capacity for change. There is never a right time to do a difficult thing."

John Porter

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Of Interest



There are changes a '**blowing in the wind**'. Gerardo Balmaceda (Business Development) is on the move to Calgary. The Chinook Winds are calling him to the foothills of Alberta.

As our current machining expert and School Liaison, it is a natural progression for **Danny Schafflein** to supervise our Douglas Fir Flooring – International Exports. For a brief bio refer to [Newsletter #1](#).

Please contact Danny at: **1-800-667-2275** or by email at danny@westwindhardwood.com

Feature Story

Lumber Grades

(A+ For Wood Character)

The beauty of real wood lies in its "natural" ability to be many things to many people. The ability of wood to offer infinite hues, varied patterns and subtle variations is most desirable. Relying only on "clear" and near-clear grades of wood is limiting, and woodworkers, designers and architects could be short-changing themselves and their clients. Pin knots, wormholes (torado worms), mineral streaks, and grain variation (wild and woolly) occur to some degree with all trees; live edges may appear on sawn planks. Too often these "character markings" are treated as defects and are under appreciated. By utilizing our forests in a manner that does not reflect its natural balance, we have effectively shot ourselves in the foot, commercially and environmentally. Know what you need; get what you want. Lumber grades can offer you some guidelines to help you understand what you need.

HARDWOOD LUMBER:

Prior to 1897, individual mills had their own grading systems for local markets. In 1897, the National Hardwood Lumber Association (www.nhla.com) was established to regulate lumber grading and wrote standard grades for hardwood lumber to be used in Canada and the US, and are now generally accepted internationally. Primarily these rules were based on the number and size of defects. Changes in the early 1930's changed the grading criteria to the amount and size of clear cuttings. Although minor modifications occur, the rules have been relatively stable since then. The rules were written with the volume user in mind, and are full of exceptions based on individual species. They appear complicated but generally they are strictly mathematical and quantitative. I have provided a **very** abbreviated overview of the NHLA rules. They are not intended to teach someone how to actually grade lumber. An NHLA Grading book is a valuable tool to better understand the intricacies of the grades.

| GRADE | Firsts and Seconds | #1 Common | #2 A/B Common | #3A Common | #3B Common |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|---------------|------------|-------------|
| Min. Board Width | 8 Inches | 3 inches | 3 inches | 3 inches | 3 inches |
| Min. Board Length | 8 feet | 4 feet | 4 feet | 4 feet | 4 feet |
| Min. Cutting Size | 4" x 5' / 3" x 7' | 4" x 2' / 3" x 3' | 3" x 2' | 3" x 2' | 1 1/2" x 2' |
| Basic Yield | 83-1/3% | 66-2/3% | 50% | 33-1/3% | 25% |
| Req. Cutting Units per grading specs | SMx10 | SMx6 | SMx6 | SMx4 | SMx3 |
| No. of Cuttings | SM/4 (4 max) | (SM+1)/3 (5 max) | SM/2 (7 max) | Unlimited | |
| One Extra Cutting Yield | SMx11 | SMx9 | SMx8 | | |

** SM = surface measure

First and Seconds – FAS

The best grade (furniture quality) requires 83% clear or clearer on the poorest side. Clearness is measured in large rectangular areas called cuttings. Lumber thickness (4/4, 6/4, etc.) is not considered when grading.

FAS 1 Face/Select – F1F

FAS on the good side and #1 Common on the poor side at 6" and wider.

#1 Common – 1C

Must be 67% clear on the poor side, etc.

#2A Common – 2AC

50% clear.

#2B Common – 2BC

50% clear. Graded on the basis of sound cuttings rather than clear cuttings.

#3A Common – 3AC

33% clear.

#3B Common – 3BC

25% clear. Graded on the basis of sound cuttings rather than clear cuttings.

* **A** and **B** are usually mixed together and denoted as **B&BTR**

SOFTWOOD LUMBER:

Wood has served as a structural material since the distant ages of King Solomon's temple. Standardized lumber came into use in the 19th century, as the call for cheap and modern house framing increased with the population explosion of the Industrial Revolution.

Unlike hardwood lumber, softwood lumber grades generally reflect the strength and load carrying capacity and safety; particularly with the construction industry in mind. Softwood lumber is most commonly graded in accordance to guidelines of the American Softwood Lumber Standard (ALSC) PS 20-70; the current edition is PS 20-99. The ALSC serves as the standing committee for this document. The guidelines were developed in accordance with the *Procedures for the Development of Voluntary Product Standards* of the U.S. Department of Commerce through a consensus process. These guidelines can be viewed at: <http://www.alsc.org/greenbook%20collection/ps20.pdf>.

The names of grades are actually an option and thus not standardized, but at West Wind Hardwood, we are primarily concerned with **appearance** grade lumber. Boards in this category will mostly be used for quality furniture and flooring, boat and airplane construction. The highest grade of appearance lumber is Finish, which is then subdivided into grades composed of letters (B&BTR, C, D) or names as Superior or Prime. The next level down is Selects with designations of B&BTR, C Select, and D Select. To complicate the issue, differences exist for different wood species, such as heartwood, sapwood, and clear all heart or free of heart (FOH), flat grain (FG), vertical grain (VG) or mixed grain (MG) and S4S (surfaced four sides). Moisture content and rings per inch play a valuable role when selecting for spar grade or musical instruments. Generally speaking most woodworkers will encounter the four grades of Select. These two grades are generally designated as Select & Better.

A Select *

No knots, splits or other visible defects. In a perfect work, supposedly perfect.

B Select *

A few small defects but nearly perfect.

C Select

Small tight knots; may be nearly perfect on one side.

D Select

More numerous pink knots and other small blemishes.

* **A** and **B** are usually mixed together and denoted as **B&BTR**

Looking Beyond Wood Grades— taken from “The Art of Buying Lumber” with permission by Dick Burrows.

The question of lumber grades can be confusing, so it's best not to get too hung up on them when picking stock. Grades give you an indication of the number of defects in a board, not the board's total quality.

Instead of grade, concentrate on the yield, which tells you the grader's estimate of how much clear wood a board contains. Select grades offer a yield of 83 percent or better clear stock. A No. 1 common board yields 66 to 83 percent clear stock, and No. 2 common yields 50 to 66 percent, usually in lengths that are still adequate for small projects. Another common-grade term is log run, which basically means the whole cut-up tree as it comes from the mill. "It's mostly No. 2 common or better. About 20 percent will be select," Wall says.

But, how do you figure the amount of wood you need when you have to work around all those knots? The easiest thing to do is buy 20 to 25 percent more wood than you think you'll actually need. "Working wood is not like slicing loaf bread," says Hil Peel, manager of Wall's lumberyard. Waste is inevitable even if the board is free of defects because you lose to saw kerfs, jointing, and other milling operations. Don't underestimate the waste from kerfs; some carbide blades take nearly 1/4 in. per pass.

And, stay away from the elaborate cutting diagrams sometimes found in project articles. These diagrams are supposed to show you how to cut lots of little parts out of a board, but they can become very restrictive. Peel tells of one

woodworker who spent hours making four pages of diagrams and then had to spend another couple of hours searching for boards to fit the diagrams. "I think it's better to buy about 100 bd. ft. and get the stock you need without worrying about cutting diagrams," Peel advises. "Plus, if you buy at least 100 bd. ft., you usually get a quantity discount and can use what's left on the next project."

There are more than 23,000 different species of trees found on our planet Earth. Because of the many different species of hardwoods and softwoods, time and space does not allow for anything other than generalities. Remember, whichever the species, grade or condition of the wood you are working with, it is a resource that should be valued and treasured.

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Volume 6
August 2006
By: Shelley Nielsen

Latest News

Forest Facts:

We're mostly in the business of supplying the growing need for lumber for boats, furniture, flooring and other value-added products.

So making sure we always have plenty of trees is pretty important to us.

The real beauty of managing forests – and our business – is that trees are a completely natural and renewable resource.

So we're able to continue this cycle for generations and generations.

Quote of the Month:

"The richness I achieve comes from Nature, the source of my inspiration."

Claude Monet

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Champagne Taste on a beer budget



"New Fir" only \$3.89 per sqft

New Fir

West Wind Hardwood is proud to introduce "New Fir" to our collection of [Douglas fir flooring](#).

New fir is our most affordable vertical grain [Douglas fir flooring](#). Manufactured from young second growth Douglas fir trees, it adds warmth charm and interest to any decor, while satisfying even the tightest beer budget.

[New Fir Flooring](#) is 3/4" x 3.5", random lengths (3'-5'), end matched.

Contact [Joel](#) for more information.

Of Interest

60-SECOND CRITIC TELL US HOW WE ARE DOING!!

West Wind Hardwood would like to take this opportunity to ask its readers what they like, dislike or want to see more of in our newsletter.

We invite you to participate in our 60 second critic survey. As the title suggests it is brief. [Take survey now](#)

Feature Story

A Rose by Any Other Name

"If forests are like wine, the second and third generations that come up after a native forest is cut are the young and inexpensive varieties. They might be serviceable, but they don't begin to compare with the rich, heady, bold, and complex attributes of a forest that has aged for centuries.... The massive tree farms where the product is grown in rows like corn and as fast as possible, are chardonnay in a box"..... **excerpt from *Condé Nast Traveler with permission from Jim Robbins.***

But the state of the world's forests defies the wisdom of our continued dependence on the "classics". Once abundant species, including rosewoods and mahogany, are in dramatic decline. Dozens of species of flora and fauna are listed as threatened or endangered by the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). To learn more about CITES, check

their website at <http://www.cites.org/eng/about.shtml>.

Rosewoods were prized for their richly exotic colour and contrasting figure. The preferred timbers, the ones with the darkest purplish colourings, were commonly called "*palissander*". This term originates from the Renaissance when Europe imported rosewood from the New World. The term rosewood has been a catchall name used both in Americas and the Orient.

There is a great deal of confusion and misinformation circulating around the genuine and so-called substitute species. "*What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other word would smell as sweet.*" --From *Romeo and Juliet* (II, ii, 1-2). Common names vary depending on where you are standing in the world. To be considered genuine, the tree must be a member of the genus *Dalbergia* (Leguminosae family), but due to the extreme rarity and expense, we have seen an influx of alternatives; from both the new and old worlds.

Genuine species commonly include: African blackwood (Africa), Amazon rosewood (Brazil), Brazilian rosewood (Brazil), Cocobolo (Mexico/Central America), East Indian rosewood (India), Honduras rosewood (Central America), Kingwood (Brazil) and Tulipwood (Brazil).

Substitutes species include: Bocote (Mexico), Bubinga (Africa), Padauk (Africa, Burma, Andaman Islands), Granadillo (Mexico), Jacaranda pardo (Bolivia), Pau ferro or Brazilwood (Brazil).

Truly the only way to confirm what you have is by knowing the Latin botanical name of the species and making a visual confirmation. The **Wikipedia** has a fine article on rosewood, which can be viewed at <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rosewood>. Perhaps it is better that we loose our romance with names and make a decision based on our *senses*. Is the look appropriate? Does it have the working properties required? And are you making an environmentally sound decision?

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