

# Japanese Lumber

## Information Sheet - Sugi Lumber

<b>Common Name(s)</b>	Sugi, Japanese Cedar
<b>Scientific Name:</b>	Cryptomeria japonica
<b>Distribution:</b>	Endemic to Japan; commonly grown on plantations within Japan and small amount in Taiwan.
<b>Tree Size:</b>	<b>Height:</b> 100-165 ft (30-50 m) <b>Trunk Diameter:</b> 6-10 ft (2-3 m)
<b>Average Dried Weight:</b>	23 lbs/ft <sup>3</sup> (360 kg/m <sup>3</sup> )
<b>Specific Gravity:</b>	Basic: 0.33 12% MC: 0.36
<b>Janka Hardness:</b>	320 lbf (1,420 N)
<b>Modulus of Rupture:</b>	5,280 lbf/in <sup>2</sup> (36.4 MPa)
<b>Elastic Modulus:</b>	1,109,000 lbf/in <sup>2</sup> (7.65 GPa)
<b>Crushing Strength:</b>	4,060 lbf/in <sup>2</sup> (28.0 MPa)
<b>Shrinkage:</b>	<b>Radial:</b> 2.1% <b>Tangential:</b> 6.8% <b>Volumetric:</b> 10.5% <b>T/R Ratio:</b> 3.2
<b>Color/Appearance:</b>	<b>Heartwood:</b> Typically, reddish-brown.

[www.japaneselumber.com](http://www.japaneselumber.com)

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	<p><b>Sapwood:</b> Straw-coloured and clearly demarcated from the heartwood.</p> <p><b>Knots:</b> Common, but we can grade them to near clear .</p> <p><b>Traditional Treatment:</b> Sometimes charred black using the shou sugi ban technique to enhance fire and rot resistance. Charred planks are popular for siding.</p>
<b>Grain/Texture:</b>	<p><b>Grain:</b> Straight.</p> <p><b>Texture:</b> Medium, even.</p> <p><b>Natural Luster:</b> Moderate.</p>
<b>Endgrain:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Resin canals absent.</li> <li>- Earlywood-to-latewood transition is fairly gradual with medium-high colour contrast.</li> <li>- Tracheid diameter: Small-medium.</li> <li>- Diffuse parenchyma.</li> </ul>
<b>Rot Resistance:</b>	Moderately durable to durable; moderate insect/borer resistance.
<b>Workability:</b>	<p><b>General:</b> Easy to work with hand or machine tools.</p> <p><b>Finishing:</b> Glues, stains, and finishes well.</p>
<b>Odor:</b>	Distinct, lingering, cedar-like odor.
<b>Allergies/Toxicity:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The tree's pollen is highly allergenic in Japan.</li> <li>- See articles on Wood Allergies and Toxicity and Wood Dust Safety for more details.</li> </ul>

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<b>Pricing/Availability:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Not widely exported.</li> <li>- Usually good quality heart only for siding/cladding.</li> <li>- Available as smaller craft lumber.</li> <li>- Mid-range prices for a softwood.</li> </ul>
<b>Sustainability:</b>	<p><b>CITES Status:</b> Not listed.  <b>IUCN:</b> Near Threatened.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Extensively and sustainably grown on plantations.</li> <li>- Natural stands are fragmented and small, often indistinguishable from plantations.</li> </ul>
<b>Common Uses:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Siding</li> <li>- Paneling</li> <li>- Furniture</li> <li>- Fences</li> <li>- Boatbuilding</li> <li>- Small specialty items</li> </ul>
<b>Comments:</b>	<p>Sugi, often referred to as Japanese Cedar, belongs to the Cupressaceae family, which includes many cedar-like species. Like most cedars, Sugi is soft, light, aromatic, and decay resistant. Sugi holds commercial importance in Japan, where it is widely used for construction.</p>
<b>Legend:</b>	<p>In the early 1600s, a feudal lord, too poor to donate a stone or bronze lantern at the funeral of the deceased shogun, proposed planting a row of Sugi trees along the path</p>

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	leading to the temple. These trees remain today as a stately and impressive display.
<b>Related Video:</b>	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T6mKfMeN9bQ">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T6mKfMeN9bQ</a>

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