

Red Cedar – *Toona australis*

Wood Appearance

Colour – The heartwood ranges from pink to deep red-brown. Sapwood is usually yellowish-white in colour.

Grain – Coarse, open and usually straight. The occasional presence of wavy interlocked grain can produce an attractive fiddleback figure. Growth rings are obvious in back sawn timber.

Wood Properties

Density – 450 kg/m³

Durability – Class 2 – Highly resistant to decay when fully exposed to weather, clear of the ground and well drained with free air circulation.

Hardness – Very soft (rated 6 on 6 class scale) in relation to indentation and ease of working with hand tools.

Identification Features

Sapwood – Yellowish-white to light grey

Heartwood – Pink to dark red-brown

Texture – Coarse, vessel lines prominent on back-sawn surfaces

Wood Structure

Growth rings – Often prominent due to its ring porous structure

Vessels – Medium to large, arranged in short radial multiples with a distinct tendency to decrease in diameter from earlywood to latewood; some reddish deposits may be present.

Parenchyma – Indistinct under a lens but some terminal banding occurs

Rays – Visible without a lens.

Intercellular Canals – Visible under a lens in some specimens.

Other Features

Burning Splinter Test – A match size splinter burns to a full white ash

Figure – Prominent on back-sawn surfaces due to the ring porous structure

Odour – Heartwood has a pleasant and distinctly spicy aroma

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