

# TIMBER

TABLE I—continued  
SOFTWOODS—continued

STANDARD NAME.	BOTANICAL NAME.	SOURCE.	WEIGHT (lb. per cub. ft.).	CHARACTERISTICS.	USES.
Whitewood (white deal or fir, European spruce, northern and Baltic whitewood)	<i>Picea abies</i> <i>Abies alba</i>	Northern and Central Europe, British Isles	27	Yellowish or pinkish white; distinct growth rings; straight grained; presence of many hard black knots affects working; smooth silky finish; stains, paints, varnishes and polishes well.	Internal carpentry and cheaper joinery.
Yew . . . . .	<i>Taxus baccata</i>	British Isles	42	Orange-brown heartwood, white sapwood; distinct growth rings; straight and irregular grained, producing attractive figure; strong, hard, durable; stains and polishes well.	Rougher grades (including home-grown): temporary work, packing cases. Limited supply available for doors, panelling, floor blocks, furniture, gates.

TABLE II  
HARDWOODS

STANDARD NAME.	BOTANICAL NAME.	SOURCE.	WEIGHT (lb. per cub. ft.).	CHARACTERISTICS.	USES.
Ash (American and Japanese ash)	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> <i>F. americana</i> <i>F. mandshurica</i>	British Isles Eastern Canada, U.S.A. Japan	44	White to light brown; ring porous, large pores distinct; growth rings distinct, rays indistinct; straight and coarse grained and occasional decorative burrs; very tough and elastic, not durable when exposed; stains, varnishes and polishes well. American and Japanese similar but inferior to home-grown.	Figured timber for decorative work, furniture, veneers, plywood. Chiefly for hammer, etc. shafts, hockey, etc. sticks, motor, etc. body framework.
Avodiré (olon, appayia)	<i>Turraeanthus africanus</i>	Gold Coast, Ivory Coast	35	Golden yellow; growth rings not visible, rays indistinct; straight and interlocked grain producing rich mottled figure; tough, strong, elastic.	Veneers, plywood, panelling, cabinet work. Used as a substitute for mahoganies (p. 21). Sound and heat insulation.
Balsa . . . . .	<i>Ochroma</i>	Central America, West Indies	7-10	Pinkish white with silky lustre; soft and spongy. Lightest of commercial timbers.	General interior joinery; bent plywood cores.
Basswood (American lime)	<i>Tilia glabra</i>	Canada (Quebec, Ontario and New Brunswick), U.S.A.	26	Creamy white to light brown; fine texture; not durable when exposed.	Panelling and decorative work, both solid and as a veneer.
Bean, Black . . . . .	<i>Castanospermum australe</i>	Australia	49	Dark brown streaked with greyish brown; usually straight grained, but sometimes interlocked, giving a beautiful mottled figure; durable; rather difficult to work.	Block and parquet flooring, furniture, doors, piles, wood-working tools such as plane stocks and mallets.
Beech (American beech)	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i> <i>F. grandifolia</i>	British Isles, Central Europe South-East Canada, North-East U.S.A.	46	White or pale brown; diffuse porous, pores barely visible; growth rings moderately distinct, rays very distinct as flecks; straight grained, fine texture, works easily; hard and very durable if wet or dry; stains and polishes well.	As above.
Beech, Southland . . . . .	<i>Nothofagus menziesii</i>	New Zealand	36	Pinkish brown with silky lustre; growth rings fairly distinct, rays invisible; usually straight grained and fine texture; not durable when exposed; stains and polishes well.	Plywood, doors, furniture, motor bodies.
Birch . . . . .	<i>Betula pubescens</i> (white) <i>B. pendula</i> (silver)	Europe, including British Isles	42	White to light brown; diffuse porous, pores barely visible; growth rings and rays barely visible; fairly straight grained, medium texture; strong, tough; not durable; cuts with smooth, bright surface.	

NOTE.—Some timbers are also known by those names appearing within the brackets in the first column.