








Cherry

Like all fruit trees, cherry belongs to the rose family and was used as early as 400 B.C. by the Greeks and Romans for furniture making. American Colonists used the cherry tree for its fruit, medicinal properties and home furnishings. They mixed cherry juice with rum to create Cherry Bounce, a bitter but highly favored cordial. The bark was used in the production of drugs to treat bronchitis, and cherry stalks were used to make tonics.

	POOR	GOOD
 MACHINING	██████████	██████████
 NAILING	██████████	██████████
 SCREWING	██████████	██████████
 GLUING	██████████	██████████
 FINISHING	██████████	██████████

DISTRIBUTION

Throughout Midwestern and Eastern U.S. Main commercial areas: Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia and New York.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The heartwood of cherry varies from rich red to reddish brown and will darken with age and on exposure to light. In contrast, the sapwood is creamy white. The wood has a fine uniform, straight grain, satiny, smooth texture, and may naturally contain brown pith flecks and small gum pockets.

WORKING PROPERTIES

Cherry is easy to machine, nails and glues well and when sanded and stained, it produces an excellent smooth finish. It dries fairly quickly with moderately high shrinkage, but is dimensionally stable after kiln-drying.

PHYSICAL PROPERTIES

The wood is of medium density with good bending properties, it has low stiffness and medium strength and shock resistance.

AVAILABILITY

Readily available.

MAIN USES

Fine furniture and cabinet making, mouldings and millwork, kitchen cabinets, paneling, flooring, doors, boat interiors, musical instruments, turnings and carvings.

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE

3.9 percent of total U.S. hardwoods commercially available.