

## PORT ORFORD CEDAR

*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*



**Region:** Pacific northwest, California and Oregon

**Grain/Texture:** Wood grain is straight with a uniform medium to fine texture.

**Color:** Heartwood is a light yellowish brown. Sapwood is pale yellow-brown to almost white and isn't clearly distinguished from the heartwood. Color tends to darken with age upon exposure to light and will weather to a uniform grey when left exposed outdoors.

**Qualities:** Port Orford Cedar is durable to very durable regarding decay resistance, also resistant to most insect attacks. It is a strong, lightweight timber with superb strength-to-weight ratios.

**Uses:** Arrow shafts, boatbuilding, boxes and chests, decking, various interior millwork applications and musical instruments especially soundboards.

**Sustainability Info:** Endangered from population reduction and from *Phytophthora lateralis* which is a fungal root infection affecting the trees.

**Interesting Facts:** This tree attained its name from the location where it was first discovered near Port Orford in Oregon. A species of conifer it reaches 150-200 ft tall with a 4-6 ft trunk diameter. Known for its straight grain Port Orford Cedar is used for making arrow shafts. It is highly regarded in Japan where it is exported for making woodenware, toys, coffins, as well as, for shrine and temple repair. During and before WWII the wood was used for storage battery separators because of its resistance to acid corrosion.