

elm  
Ailm nó leamhan

## General Description

The old Irish Alphabet was based on the names of trees and the first letter in that Alphabet "A" is signified by the Ailm or Elm in English. The heartwood of Elm is dark brown in colour when kiln-dried. Annual rings are distinct due to large earlywood pores which give a coarse texture to the wood. A conspicuous grain pattern gives the timber a very attractive figure. Green streak can be evident in wych elm.

## Mechanical Properties

Elm is of medium density with low bending and crushing strengths. It has very low stiffness and resistance to shock loads. It dries fairly rapidly though sometimes with a lot of distortion. We always take great care when stacking the material for drying. Elm has medium movement in service. It is non-durable and subject to pest attack. Specific gravity is 0.55.



## Working Properties

The timber has a moderate blunting effect on tools. It machines to a high finish and will polish or wax to a lustrous finish. The timber has excellent resistance to splitting when nailing or screwing. It glues and turns well.

## Uses

Elm is used in the furniture industry for cabinetwork and kitchen manufacture. It is widely used in boat building, and for domestic flooring and wall panelling.

## Grades & Specifications

The majority of elm trees have Dutch Elm Disease and unaffected timber is increasingly rare. We cannot guarantee which type of Elm will be supplied. It will be a mixture of both Common and Wych. If Sapwood is present, it is not classed as a defect, though if it is used in joinery works it can be prone to insect attack and should be treated.

We normally supply square-edged graded wood after kiln-drying in lengths of 4ft or longer and widths of 3" or wider. This grade of Elm can have small live knots present and may have some small splits. Generally, however, any major defects present are measured out of the board.

We also supply Burr Elm, which is formed by the cluster of pin knots or burrs of irregular growth. It is becoming increasingly difficult to obtain this material. We select this stock as we are sawing, normally leaving a waney-edge to capture this unique feature to best effect.

Moisture Content is normally 10%, +/- 2.

T R A D I T I O N A L   •   E N D U R I N G   •   S U S T A I N A B L E

Native  
elegance  
QUALITY IRISH   HARDWOODS - BY COILLTE

Spanish Chestnut & Sweet Chestnut  
CASTAN

### General Description

The saying 'an old chestnut' originated when the ancient Romans discovered there was no nourishment in the fruit of this species. Now we think of mature chestnut in a more enterprising way. Chestnut is pale yellowish-brown in colour. It resembles oak, though it has much finer rays than the silver medullary rays that feature in Oak. It is normally straight grained, but some trees produce spiral grained timber. Its texture is coarse.

### Mechanical Properties

The wood is of medium density. It has low-density strength, medium crushing strength and a very low stiffness and resistance to shock loads. Care must be taken when felling Chestnut as it is liable to rupture on falling, causing shatter damage to the tree. The timber has an acidic character which can accelerate corrosion of metals in contact with it under damp conditions. Contact with Iron, in such conditions, is liable to leave a blue-black stain. The timber can be difficult to kiln dry. It has a tendency to collapse and can retain patches of moisture. Once dried, it has small movement in service. It is a durable timber. Specific gravity is 0.54.

### Working Properties

The wood has only a slight blunting effect on tools. It machines very well, giving a fine finish. It is particularly easy to work with hand tools. It nails and screws well, and also glues without problem.

### Uses

Although Chestnut resembles Oak in appearance, it is lighter and easier to work. Furniture and kitchen manufacturers make extensive use of Chestnut. It is also used for turnery and kitchen utensils. The durability of the wood means it is especially suitable for cleft fencing.

### Grades & Specifications

We select our grade of Spanish Chestnut after kiln drying and re-sawing. The wood is generally clear grade but some small live knots may be present. It is usually square-edged in lengths of 5ft upwards and widths of 4" upwards. We try to select boards free of excessive dark stain, however light water stains give a golden effect to the board and are not seen as a defect.

Moisture content is 10%, +/- 2%.



T R A D I T I O N A L   •   E N D U R I N G   •   S U S T A I N A B L E

*Native*  
**elegance**  
QUALITY IRISH   HARDWOODS - BY COILLTE



## General Description

Beech has made itself at home in a wide range of Irish soils and conditions. It forms beautiful hedgerows where it reflects nature itself with its vivid green leaves in spring and golden-brown in autumn. Heartwood is pale white to pinkish brown in colour. Some Beech has a darker coloured, reddish heart, with some dark veining. The Sapwood is not normally distinguishable from the heartwood. The grain is usually straight and the wood has a fine, even texture.

## Mechanical Properties

Beech has exceptional bending properties. It is one of the strongest of all home-grown timbers. It has medium stiffness, a high crushing strength and medium resistance to shock loads. Beech dries fairly rapidly, and is classed as moderately refractory, tending to warp, shrink and split. When dry, there can be movement in service. The wood is perishable and vulnerable to attack by the Common Furniture Beetle. Specific gravity is 0.72.

## Working Properties

Beech can have a moderate blunting effect on tools and has a tendency to bind on saws. An excellent machined finish can be achieved. As resistance to splitting when nailed or screwed is only fair, pre-boring is often necessary. The timber glues easily and stains well. It also has good turning properties.



## Uses

The largest consumer of Beech is the furniture industry. It is used for solid parts in cabinetwork, and its strength makes it particularly suitable for chairs and tables. It is also used for tool handles, sports goods, turnery, musical instrument parts and is machined for domestic flooring.

## Grades & Specifications

We select Prime Beech in lengths of 5ft or longer and widths of 5" or wider. Prime grade is free of small knots and splits on one face and is normally square-edged both sides. We do not normally separate white from flame-coloured Beech.

Our Rustic/Character Grade may have some knots and defects, such as splits. Lengths are from 5ft, in widths of 5" or more. Normally the boards are re-sawn after being kiln-dried, with both sides square-edged. Again, this grade is a mixture of white and flame-coloured beech.

We also select a Spalted Beech Grade. This grade has distinctive black streaks throughout the board. It may have knots up to 2" in size and small splits. Spalted Beech grade boards are normally cut in square edge form with lengths upwards of 5ft and widths of 5" or wider.

Moisture content of all grades is 10%, +/- 2%.

Sticker marks or shadow can occur at times, but is not classified as a defect.

T R A D I T I O N A L • E N D U R I N G • S U S T A I N A B L E



## General Description

From little acorns great oaks grow and add a native elegance to our rich green isle. Indeed, deep beneath our moors and bogs lie remnants of old oak woodlands which were gouged out and crushed by the advancing ice-age of more than 20,000 years ago. The heartwood is light tan to biscuit in colour and is usually straight-grained, though irregular cross-grain does occur. The characteristic ornamental silver-grained figure, due to the broad rays, is evident on the quarter-sawn timber. Some boards may have dark mineral streaks. The pronounced grain catches the eye and distinguishes Oak from other woods.

## Mechanical Properties

Oak is a strong timber with a very good steam bending classification. Blue stain can occur if the timber is in contact with iron compounds. It can also accelerate corrosion of metals when in contact under damp conditions. It has medium movement in service. It dries very slowly with a tendency to split and surface check, particularly in the early stages of drying. Sapwood is non-durable but the heartwood is very durable. Specific gravity is 0.72.

## Working Properties

Cutters should be kept sharp as Oak can have a moderate to severe blunting effect. The wood gives an excellent machined finish. It is advisable to pre-bore before nailing Oak, though it is highly resistant to splitting in screwing. The timber glues well.

## Uses

Oak is suitable for furniture, cabinet making, joinery, heavy construction work, boat building, cooperage and flooring. It is also used for veneers and fencing.

## Grades & Specifications

We grade our Oak into the following categories:

**Prime Grade** is free from major defects like splits and knots. It is re-sawn and graded after kiln drying. Normal lengths are 6ft and longer, with widths of 5" and wider.

**Rustic/Character Grade** gives an 'olde worlde' effect. It includes small sound knots with some splits and shake, though these are measured out of the board if they are too pronounced. Colour variation is another characteristic of this grade, with brown and mineral streaks. Rustic/Character Grade is normally sold square-edged in lengths upwards of 6ft and widths of 5" and wider.

**Pippy Grade** Oak has an attractive arrangement of little pips on it which are, in effect, a cluster of small knots. The number of pips varies from board to board. Pippy Grade is very popular in furniture and joinery works. When a board has a significant covering of pips, it is called Burr Oak. Pippy Grade Oak is sold in lengths of 6ft and longer, and widths of 3" and wider.

**Tiger Oak** is the name given to Oak covered with brown streaks that run with the grain. These give the wood a tiger-stripe appearance. This magnificent streaky effect is caused by the "Deef Steak" fungus and is a relatively rare grade.

Moisture Content is 10%, +/- 2%.

We also supply weathered and fresh-sawn Oak beams. These beams have an 'olde worlde' charm with characteristic knots, wane splits and shake. When we re-saw any beam that has been air-dried, a freshly sawn face is exposed, contrasting with the weathered faces of air-dried material that has not been re-sawn. We can surface plane beams to the customer's specifications.

T R A D I T I O N A L   •   E N D U R I N G   •   S U S T A I N A B L E

Native  
elegance  
QUALITY IRISH   HARDWOODS - BY COILLTE



## General Description

The first species to colonise our lands about 12,000 years ago, Birch (or Beirch in Irish) is frequently found in place names such as Glenbeigh in County Kerry. The timber is creamy white to tan in colour. It is straight-grained with a fine texture. Our Birch has a highly decorative flecked and swirling figure, the result of Beetle larvae (*Agromyia carbonaria*) attacking the cambium.

## Mechanical Properties

Birch has high bending and crushing strength with medium stiffness and resistance to shock loads. When kiln-dried, Birch has a toughness comparable to Ash. It has a tendency to distort when drying, and can have a small movement in service. The wood is perishable and subject to attack by the Common Furniture Beetle. Specific gravity is 0.66.

## Working Properties

The wood has a moderate blunting effect on tools. It can give a woolly finish or tearing around knots where there may be cross-grain. Generally, it gives an excellent machined finish and polishes to a good finish. Resistance to screwing and nailing is only fair, so it is advisable to pre-bore before nailing. Birch glues well.

## Uses

Birch is mainly used for high-class joinery, furniture, upholstery framing and general turnery. It also machines well for flooring.

## Grades & Specifications

We offer Birch in one grade only. It can be square-edged on one side, or waney-edged. The wood may have small sound knots present. It is graded after kiln drying and may also have some small fissures or end cracks. Birch is supplied in lengths of 4ft or longer and widths of 3" or wider.

Moisture Content is 10%, +/- 2%.



## General Description

Dees love it for its flowers and the sweet-throated Irish songbird, the thrush (or smólach) loves it for its fruit. The timber of Wild Cherry is normally a pale, pinkish-brown and it darkens somewhat on exposure to light. The Sapwood is lighter in colour than the heartwood and is moderately well defined. The grain is generally straight with an even fine texture. Wild Cherry can have a distinctive green streak which runs with the grain.

## Mechanical Properties

The timber dries fairly rapidly but has a strong tendency to distort. Cherry is a little weaker in strength than Beech. It has good bending classification and medium crushing strength, with low stiffness ratings and medium shock resistance ratings. Cherry has a medium amount of movement in service. The heartwood is reasonably durable. Specific gravity is 0.61.

## Working Properties

Cherry has a moderate effect on cutting edges. Straight grained wood machines satisfactorily. Its classification on resistance to splitting on nailing and screwing is good, and it glues well. Cherry polishes exceptionally well.

## Uses

Because of its tendency to warp, Cherry is used in stabler small sections. Furniture, decorative joinery and cabinet making are among its uses. Cherry turns very well. When machined and finished, Cherry is a beautiful timber.

## Grades & Specifications

The timber is normally sold with both sides square-edged, although smaller material is often sold waney-edged. We supply only one grade of Cherry which may have some small live knots and surface fissures present. Available in lengths from 4ft upwards and widths from 3" upwards.



## General Description

The Alder loves Ireland because of the mild pure misty conditions which create the damp weather in which it thrives. People love it for its timber which is pale when first sawn; it darkens to a dull reddish-brown with darker lines or streaks formed by broad rays. The Sapwood is not visually distinguishable from the heartwood. Normally it is straight grained, with fine texture but without lustre.

## Mechanical Properties

Alder has moderate bending classification with low bending strength and resistance to shock loads. It has medium crushing strength. The wood dries fairly rapidly and is stable in service. It is vulnerable to attack by the Common Furniture Beetle and has poor durability. Specific gravity is 0.53.

## Working Properties

The timber is easy to work, with a low cutting resistance. However, cutting edges must be kept thin and sharp as it can have a slight blunting effect on tools. Alder nails and screws satisfactorily. It glues well, but care is needed, as the glue can leave dark marks when the wood is finished. When stained and polished, Alder finishes well.

## Uses

At one time it was used to make wooden shoes and clog soles. Comparative lightness and ease of working makes Alder especially suitable for furniture, general turnery, toys and wooden clog shoes.

## Grade & Specification

We supply both Prime and Rustic Character grade.

Alder Prime Grade is free from major defects such as knots and splits. These are graded out after kiln drying. Some small sound pin knots are allowed.

Normal lengths are 6ft or longer, on average, with widths of 5" or wider.

Rustic Character Grade may have knots up to 4" in diameter, with some small splits and shake. Lengths are 6ft or longer, with widths of 4" or wider.

Moisture content is 10%, +/- 2%.



T R A D I T I O N A L   •   E N D U R I N G   •   S U S T A I N A B L E

Native  
elegance  
QUALITY IRISH   HARDWOODS - BY COILLTE



## General Description

Sycamore has always fascinated children with its "helicopter" seeds. Sycamore varies from white to creamy-white in colour, with a natural lustre. Slowly dried Sycamore assumes a light brown colour and is known as weathered Sycamore. Sapwood is not distinct from the heartwood. The timber is usually straight-grained but curly- or wavy-grain, known as fiddleback figure, is a valuable feature. The grain is always fine and close with an even texture.

## Mechanical Properties

The timber has medium bending and crushing strengths, low resistance to shock loads, and a very low stiffness strength. It is of medium density and has very good steam bending classifications. Care must be taken when drying to prevent sticker marks. Sycamore has medium movement in service. Both heartwood and sapwood are perishable. Specific gravity is 0.61.

## Working Properties

The timber works easily with hand and machine tools and has only a moderate blunting effect. It machines to a fine smooth finish. The timber nails and glues well and polishes to an excellent finish. It also turns very well. Sycamore is often given a stained finish and care is required to avoid the stain covering in patches.

## Uses

Sycamore is used a lot in turnery for brush handles and domestic utensils where the timber is in contact with food. It is also used for fine cabinetwork, furniture, kitchens and veneers. Figured Sycamore is used in the manufacture of musical instruments.

## Grades & Specifications

Our grade of Sycamore is re-sawn after kiln-drying, giving square-edged boards. The wood is generally free of defects, but some small live knots are acceptable. We endeavour to supply Sycamore free of sticker marks. Any Sycamore wood that is not white or has sticker marks is sold as lower grade weathered Sycamore. The timber is normally supplied in lengths of 6ft or more and widths of 4" or more.

The moisture content is 10%, +/- 2%.



T R A D I T I O N A L   •   E N D U R I N G   •   S U S T A I N A B L E

Native  
elegance  
QUALITY IRISH   HARDWOODS - BY COILLTE



## General Description

It grows deep into our rich loamy soils and even deeper into our treasure-trove of heroism and culture. Ash is generally heavy, strong, flexible and straight-grained, with a high resistance to shock. The Sapwood ranges in colour from light to nearly white, whilst the Heartwood varies from light brown to dark brown. The ratio of heartwood to sapwood is variable. Because of the pronounced grain pattern, Ash finishes to a bright lustre.

Older Park trees have a characteristic and attractive feature called Olive Ash. This is where the light brown to dark heart colour is predominant, with only a small amount of white showing along the edges. The result is a unique marbled effect.

## Mechanical Properties

This tough, dense timber is very resistant to splitting. It has an excellent capacity to bend, and a medium resistance to crushing and shock loads. Ash dries relatively quickly and has medium movement in service. The wood is non-durable and is vulnerable to attack by the common furniture beetle. Specific gravity is 0.72.

## Working Properties

Ash works well with both hand and machine tools; it has good resistance to splitting in nailing. Although it has a moderate blunting effect on tools, it can give an excellent smooth finish. The wood stains and glues satisfactorily.

## Uses

First used by Setanta before he took the name Cú Chulainn, Ash is now used worldwide for sporting equipment and tool handles. It is used extensively in furniture and cabinet making. Boat builders and turnery works also use Ash. It is particularly suited to applications where strength is required. We also machine Ash for flooring.

## Grades & Specifications

We select Prime White Ash in lengths of 5ft or longer and widths of 5" or wider. This grade is free of knots and splits and is normally square-edged on both sides.

Prime Olive Ash is also selected in lengths of 5ft or longer and widths of 5" or wider. This grade is free of large knots and splits. Normally the boards are resawn, with both sides square-edged.

Our selected Rustic/Character Grade will be a mixture of White and Olive Ash with some knots and splitting. Lengths are 5ft or longer, with widths of 5" or wider. Both sides are normally square-edged.

Moisture content is 10%, +/- 2%.



T R A D I T I O N A L   •   E N D U R I N G   •   S U S T A I N A B L E

Native  
elegance  
QUALITY IRISH   HARDWOODS - BY COILLTE