

Considering Framing and Construction Lumber

Given the crisis in softwood lumber, extreme pricing and short supply, it is our hope to help readers wade through it all. PIF sees no shortage of raw log-bolt material in our area, however the poor pulpwood markets likely hold up sales that have a strong mix of log and pulpwood.

With the release of our *Celebrating Local Wood and Alternative Forest Products* handbook last year we stressed the value of using local woods. (The book is still available by request). We also understand this approach is not always practical, when we are part of markets affecting the whole nation, not only our region. For example, it has become increasingly difficult to locate treated red pine, as most treated wood these days is southern pine species. And some framing charts may list Douglas Fir –so how does this compare? Is Southern Yellow Pine appropriate for construction lumber?

To help wade through all this, we have reached out to researchers at the USFS, division State and Private Forestry as well as the Forest Products Lab to help us sort through this issue. The information provided will be helpful in comparing widely used species from across the continent, from Douglas Fir, to the Southern Yellow Pines, to Hemlock and our Spruce Pine Fir categories.

The Wood Handbook has comparison tables in Chapter Three. There is a link to the publication here. <https://www.fs.usda.gov/treesearch/pubs/62200> . Here is a link to the Softwood Lumber Board site that has a lot of information. <https://softwoodlumberboard.org/>



The Forest Products Laboratory does have the [Wood Handbook](#). These two documents, from the Softwood Export Council, can also be useful.

American Softwoods
<https://americansoftwoods.com/>

Softwood Export Council.
<http://www.softwood.org/>

Please contact us if we can help in any way. We encourage the sustainable use of all of our forest products to enrich our lives. And use local wood whenever practical.