



## *Juniperus occidentalis*

Family: Cupressaceae

### Western Juniper

Western juniper is one species of about 50 in the genus *Juniperus*, native to North America [14], Central America [11], West Indies [5], Bermuda [1] and the Old World [25]. The word *juniperus* is the classical Latin name, while the word *occidentalis* means western.

**Other Common Names:** California juniper, Canada juniper, cedar, enebro occidental, genevrier occidental, ginepro occidentale, pencilwood, San Bernardino juniper, Sierra juniper, vasterlandsk en, western cedar, western juniper, western red cedar, westerse juniper, yellow cedar.

### Distribution

Western juniper is native to the mountains of the Pacific Coast region from central and southeastern Washington south in southwestern Idaho, Oregon, northwestern and western Nevada, and from northern to southern California.

### The Tree

Western juniper trees reach heights of 35 feet, with exceptional trees reaching heights of 87 feet, with a diameter of over 13 feet. The older trees may live for 1,000 years. It was introduced into England in 1840.

### The Wood

#### General

The heartwood of western juniper is a light red to reddish brown. It is durable, fragrant, close grained, moderately heavy, light weight, relatively soft and brittle and splits easily. It is readily worked and takes a fine finish.

**Mechanical Properties:** No information available at this time.

**Drying and Shrinkage:** No information available at this time.

**Kiln Drying Schedule:** No information available at this time.

**Working Properties:** It is easily worked and takes a fine finish.

**Durability:** It is reported to have good natural durability (1,3&8).

**Preservation:** No information available at this time.

**Uses:** Fence posts, fuel wood, novelties, potential as a pencil wood.

**Toxicity:** May cause dermatitis and respiratory problems (4, 6 & 9).

### Additional Reading and References Cited (in parentheses)

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