



Knotty Pacific Cedar

In the past decades, the market has seen imports of products grow at an alarming pace. "Made in ..." marks are now embedded in every segment of business, including the protective North American lumber industry. And one of the most demanded and popular lumber imports is commonly known in the market as fir or 'Knotty Cedar'.

So what really is this fir/cedar species that is imported? Well, there are two different types of cedar. First, there is the western red cedar imported from North America, and second is the native grown species called Chinese fir. The North American lumber industry adopted this species as Chinese fir/cedar based on few obvious similarities to the true North American cedar.

Similar to bamboo, China fir (Knotty Cedar) is now used in virtually everything from building materials, garden products, and landscape structures to siding, decking, garden and pet items, furniture, sauna, fencing, free boards, playground, mouldings, door and window jambs, and many more. Woodmill of Muskoka gives it's customer the option of Eastern White Pine harvested in Canada and it's furniture made from fir or Knotty Cedar.

This fast-growing species is heavily concentrated in Fujian Province, where an estimated more than 60,000 hectares of timberland produces more than 300,000 cubic board meter (CBM) each year. Most of the logging management is permitted after 10 years of growth, with diameters ranging between 12" and 20" at a height reaching 20' to 30'. With the proper reforestation that is in place, these trees are grown specifically to be harvested after the 10 years of growth then replanted for future use. The species range now stretches through much of 78 million hectares of timber forest.

Its unique strong scent and pest resistance resemble that of incense cedar, but its color and knot structure that of spruce. Its fast growth and density are similar to pine, yet its grain and texture are closer to Douglas fir.