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Standard Nomenclature of Commercial Hardwoods and Softwoods¹

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1. Scope

1.1 Commercial species group names are listed with common tree and botanical names. Commercial names are representative of commercial practice in the United States and Canada. Some foreign species that are used in the United States and Canada are listed in [Appendix X1](#) with their commercial and botanical names.

1.2 The official common names conform AH 41. In addition to the official common name for a species, the checklist also lists other names by which the species and the lumber produced from it are sometimes designated. Names unique to Canada are shown with an *.

1.3 The designations in parentheses, (North) and (South), a convention used by the American Lumber Standard (ALS) Committee accredited lumber rules writing agencies listed in ALS PS 20, identify a commercial name applied only when the included species are harvested from Canada as (North) or the United States as (South).

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 Other Documents:

- [ALS PS 20 American Softwood Lumber Standard](#)
- [AH 41 Check List of Native and Naturalized Trees of the United States \(including Alaska\), Agriculture Handbook No. 41, 1953](#)

¹ This nomenclature is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D07 on Wood and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D07.91 on Terminology and Editorial.

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3. Terminology

3.1 Commercial names for lumber represent commercial practice in the United States and Canada.

3.2 Official common tree names are those used to identify tree species.

3.3 Botanical names are those that scientifically identify the genus and species of individual tree species.

3.4 Commercial species groups are those that are combined for marketing convenience, for growing within the same forest timber stand, or for similar performance properties and characteristics.

3.5 Single species and species groups are provided in Tables 1-2 and shown by commercial names, official common tree names, and botanical names.

3.6 Species groups for hardwoods are shown in Table 1.

3.7 Species groups for softwoods are shown in Table 2.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 The purpose of this standard is to provide common tree names and botanical names for commercial species and species groups but is not intended to be all inclusive of commercial practice. The decision about which commercial species are included in this practice is made by the D07 committee on wood.

4.2 Individual species are frequently mixed in commercial species groups for marketing or harvesting convenience, or for similar appearance or performance properties, or both.

4.3 Consumers of lumber, plywood, and other wood-based products may use different mixes of species for the same species group name. This practice should provide clarity for nomenclature used throughout wood-consuming industries.

Commercial Hardwood Species Group

Commercial Names ²	Common Tree Names ³	Botanical Names
Alder: Red Alder†	red alder	<i>Alnus rubra</i>
Ash: White Ash	blue ash green ash white ash	<i>Fraxinus quadrangulata</i> <i>F. pennsylvanica</i> <i>F. americana</i>
Aspen:	quaking aspen (trembling aspen) bigtooth aspen (argetooth aspen)	<i>Populus tremuloides</i> <i>P. grandidentata</i>
Basswood ⁴	American basswood white basswood	<i>Tilia americana</i> <i>T. heterophylla</i>
Birch ⁵	gray birch paper birch river birch sweet birch yellow birch	<i>Betula populifolia</i> <i>B. papyrifera</i> <i>B. nigra</i> <i>B. lenta</i> <i>B. alleghaniensis</i>
Buckeye	Ohio buckeye yellow buckeye	<i>Aesculus glabra</i> <i>A. octandra</i>
Cottonwood	black cottonwood eastern cottonwood plains cottonwood swamp cottonwood balsam poplar	<i>Populus trichocarpa</i> <i>P. deltoides</i> <i>P. sargentii</i> <i>P. heterophylla</i> <i>P. balsamifera</i>
Dogwood	flowering dogwood Pacific dogwood	<i>Cornus florida</i> <i>C. nuttallii</i>
Hackberry	hackberry sugarberry	<i>Celtis occidentalis</i> <i>C. laevigata</i>
Hard Maple ⁶	black maple sugar maple	<i>Acer nigrum</i> <i>A. saccharum</i>
Hickory	mockernut hickory pignut hickory shagbark hickory shellbark hickory	<i>Carya tomentosa</i> <i>C. glabra</i> <i>C. ovata</i> <i>C. laciniosa</i>
Locust	black locust honeylocust	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i> <i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i>
Magnolia	cucumbertree southern magnolia sweetbay	<i>Magnolia acuminata</i> <i>M. grandiflora</i> <i>M. virginiana</i>
Northern Aspen*†	bigtooth aspen (argetooth aspen) quaking aspen (trembling aspen) balsam poplar (balsam)	<i>Populus grandidentata</i> <i>P. tremuloides</i> <i>P. balsamifera</i>
Pecan	bitternut hickory nutmeg hickory water hickory pecan	<i>Carya cordiformis</i> <i>C. myristicaeformis</i> <i>C. aquatica</i> <i>C. illinoensis</i>
Red Oak	black oak blackjack oak California black oak cherrybark oak	<i>Quercus velutina</i> <i>Q. marylandica</i> <i>Q. kelloggii</i> <i>Q. falcata</i> variant <i>pagodaefolia</i>

² The commercial names for lumber represent commercial practice in the United States and Canada. A dagger (†) indicates names recognized under the American Lumber Standard. The designation (north) identifies Canadian lumber exported to the United States. An asterisk (*) indicates a commercial name applied only when the included species are harvested in Canada.

³ The official common names conform to the *Check List of Native and Naturalized Trees of the United States* (including Alaska), Agriculture Handbook No. 41, 1953, and are sometimes used as names for lumber. In addition to the official common name for a species, the *Check List* also lists other names by which the species and the lumber produced from it are sometimes designated. Names unique to Canada are shown in parentheses.

⁴ For some commercial uses where a white appearance is a requirement, the sapwood of American basswood (*Tilia americana*) is specified under the designation white basswood. This commercial use designation should not be confused with the species (*Tilia heterophylla*) having the common name “white basswood.”

⁵ Usually designated either as red birch or as sap (white) birch, as the case may be, or as birch if unselected for color.

⁶ Hard maple or soft maple sometimes is specified to be white; this can be interpreted as being a requirement for sapwood.

Commercial Hardwood Species Group

Commercial Names ²	Common Tree Names ³	Botanical Names
	laurel oak northern pin oak northern red oak Nuttall oak pin oak scarlet oak Shumard oak southern red oak turkey oak water oak willow oak	<i>Q. laurifolia</i> <i>Q. ellipsoidalis</i> <i>Q. rubra</i> <i>Q. nuttallii</i> <i>Q. palustris</i> <i>Q. coccinea</i> <i>Q. shumardii</i> <i>Quercus falcata</i> <i>Q. laevis</i> <i>Q. nigra</i> <i>Q. phellos</i>
Rock Elm	cedar elm rock elm September elm winged elm	<i>Ulmus crassifolia</i> <i>U. thomasii</i> <i>U. serotina</i> <i>U. alata</i>
Soft Elm ⁷	American elm slippery elm	<i>U. americana</i> <i>U. rubra</i>
Soft Maple ⁶	red maple silver maple	<i>A. rubrum</i> <i>A. saccharinum</i>
Tupelo	black tupelo Ogeechee tupelo water tupelo	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i> <i>N. ogeechee</i> <i>N. aquatica</i>
White Oak	Arizona white oak blue oak bur oak California white oak chestnut oak chinkapin oak Emory oak Gambel oak live oak Mexican blue oak Oregon white oak overcup oak post oak swamp chestnut oak swamp white oak white oak	<i>Q. arizonica</i> <i>Q. douglasii</i> <i>Q. macrocarpa</i> <i>Q. lobata</i> <i>Q. prinus</i> <i>Q. muehlenbergii</i> <i>Q. emoryi</i> <i>Q. gambelii</i> <i>Q. virginiana</i> <i>Q. oblongifolia</i> <i>Q. garryana</i> <i>Q. lyrata</i> <i>Q. stellata</i> <i>Q. michauxii</i> <i>Q. bicolor</i> <i>Q. alba</i>
Willow	black willow peachleaf willow	<i>Salix nigra</i> <i>S. amygdaloides</i>
Yellow Poplar	yellow poplar	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>

⁷ Soft elm lumber is sometimes designated as white elm.

Commercial Softwood Species Group

Commercial Names ²	Common Tree Names ³	Botanical Names
Alaska Cedar†	Alaska-cedar	<i>Chamaecyparis nootkatensis</i>
Alaska Hemlock†	mountain hemlock western hemlock	<i>T. mertensiana</i> <i>T. heterophylla</i>
Alaska Spruce†	Sitka spruce white spruce	<i>P. sitchensis</i> <i>P. glauca</i>
Alaska Yellow-Cedar†	Alaska-cedar	<i>Chamaecyparis nootkatensis</i>
Alpine Fir-Hem-Fir	subalpine fir (alpine fir) California red fir grand fir noble fir Pacific silver fir white fir western hemlock	<i>Abies lasiocarpa</i> <i>A. magnifica</i> <i>A. grandis</i> <i>A. procera</i> <i>A. amabilis</i> <i>A. concolor</i> <i>Tsuga heterophylla</i>
Balsalm Fir†	balsam fir fraser fir	<i>A. balsamea</i> <i>A. fraseri</i>
Coast Sitka Spruce*†	Sitka spruce	<i>P. sitchensis</i>
Coast Species*†	Douglas-fir grand fir Pacific silver fir (amabilis fir) western hemlock western larch Sitka spruce	<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i> <i>Abies grandis</i> <i>A. amabilis</i> <i>Tsuga heterophylla</i> <i>Larix occidentalis</i> <i>Picea sitchensis</i>
Cypress ⁸	baldcypress pond cypress	<i>Taxodium distichum</i> <i>T. distichum</i> variant <i>nutans</i>
Douglas Fir-Larch (North)*†	Douglas-fir ⁹ western larch	<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i> <i>Larix occidentalis</i>
Douglas Fir-Larch†	Douglas-fir western larch	<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i> <i>Larix occidentalis</i>
Eastern Hemlock†	carolina hemlock eastern hemlock	<i>Tsuga caroliniana</i> <i>T. canadensis</i>
Eastern Hemlock-Tamarack (North)*†	eastern hemlock tamarack	<i>Tsuga canadensis</i> <i>Larix laricina</i>
Eastern Hemlock-Tamarack†	eastern hemlock tamarack	<i>Tsuga canadensis</i> <i>Larix laricina</i>
Eastern Red Cedar	eastern redcedar southern redcedar	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i> <i>J. silicicola</i>
Eastern Softwoods†	balsam fir black spruce eastern hemlock eastern white pine jack pine red pine red spruce taramack white spruce	<i>Abies balsamea</i> <i>Picea mariana</i> <i>T. canadensis</i> <i>Pinus strobus</i> <i>P. banksiana</i> <i>P. resinata</i> <i>P. rubens</i> <i>Larix laricina</i> <i>P. glauca</i>
Eastern Spruce-Balsam Fir†	balsam fir black spruce red spruce white spruce	<i>Abies balsamea</i> <i>Picea mariana</i> <i>P. rubens</i> <i>P. glauca</i>
Eastern Woods†	bigtooth aspen quaking aspen balsam fir Carolina hemlock eastern hemlock	<i>Populus grandidentata</i> <i>P. tremuloides</i> <i>Abies balsamea</i> <i>Tsuga caroliniana</i> <i>T. canadensis</i>

⁸ Cypress includes types designated as red cypress, white cypress, and yellow cypress. Red cypress is frequently classified and sold separately from the other types.

⁹ Douglas-fir from anywhere in the United States except Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah.