



American Black Cherry – *Prunus serotina*

OTHER NAMES: Black Cherry, Cabinet Cherry

REGION OF ORIGIN: United States

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The heartwood of American cherry varies from rich red to reddish-brown, which will darken with age and exposure to light. It has a fine, straight, close grain with a smooth texture and distinctive narrow brown pith flecks and small gum pockets. Sapwood is creamy white. US forests have a long-standing tradition of sustainable forest management, bolstered by a strong legal framework for environmental conservation.

MAIN USES

Furniture, cabinet making, interior joinery, boatbuilding and musical instruments. An excellent turning and carving wood.

WORKING PROPERTIES

The wood works easily with both hand and power tools with only moderate blunting effect. It nails, glues, stains and takes an excellent polish.

MECHANICAL PROPERTIES

The timber has good wood bending properties, low stiffness and medium strength and resistance to shock loads.

AVAILABILITY

Specifications stocked at Rosenfeld Kidson are: Sawn 25mm, 40mm, 50mm and 75mm thicknesses in mixed widths.

GRADING

Prime (FAS).

DENSITY (kg/m³)*:	580
DURABILITY:	Moderately Durable

STRENGTH GROUP:	SD5
MOR (MPa):	85
MOE(GPa):	10.3
JANKA(kN):	4.2

SHRINKAGE GREEN TO 12% M.C.	Tangential	Radial
	7.1	3.7

*Air Dry Density (kg/m³) is average indication only and actual value may vary. Refer to timber properties tables over page for strength, shrinkage and durability classifications.

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STRENGTH GROUPINGS

Minimum values for strength groups (unseasoned timber)			
<i>(units are Mpa = 145 lb/sq.inch)</i>			
Strength group	Modulus of rupture	Modulus of elasticity	Maximum crushing strength
S1	103	16300	52
S2	76	14200	43
S3	73	12400	36
S4	62	10700	31
S5	52	9100	26
S6	43	7900	22
S7	36	6900	18

Minimum values for strength groups (seasoned timber)			
<i>(units are Mpa = 145 lb/sq.inch)</i>			
Strength group	Modulus of rupture	Modulus of elasticity	Maximum crushing strength
SD1	150	21500	80
SD2	130	18500	70
SD3	110	16000	61
SD4	94	14000	54
SD5	78	12500	47
SD6	65	10500	41
SD7	55	9100	36
SD8	45	7900	30

SHRINKAGE CLASSIFICATIONS

Description of shrinkage	Shrinkage from Green to Oven-dry (12% MC)	
	(% before reconditioning)	
	Tangential	Radial
Very Low	0 - 3.5	0 - 2
Low	3.5 - 5.0	2 - 3
Medium	5.0 - 6.5	3 - 4
High	6.5 - 8.0	4 - 5
Very High	> 8.0	> 5

DURABILITY CLASSIFICATIONS

Grade of durability	Approximate service life (years)		
	Fully Protected	Above ground, exposed	In-ground, exposed
Very Durable	> 50	> 40	> 25
Durable	> 50	15 - 40	15 - 25
Moderately Durable	> 50	7 - 15	5 - 15
Non-Durable	> 50	0 - 7	0 - 5

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