The pines are widely distributed throughout Canada. In British Columbia, there are five western species, two of which, Lodgepole pine (Pinus contorta) and Western white pine (Pinus monticola), are commercially important. Lodgepole pine is found over most of British Columbia, in the southern part of the Yukon and on the eastern slope and foothills of the Rocky Mountains in Alberta. Western white pine grows in the southern coastal area of British Columbia, including Vancouver Island, and in the wet belts of the southern interior.

The Wood

The wood is light in color, ranging from cream to yellow to pale reddish-brown. It is straight-grained, non-porous with a fine and uniform texture.

Physical properties

These species have similar properties. They are light in weight and of moderate to medium strength and hardness. The wood should be treated if used in situations favourable to decay.

Working properties

In general, the wood dries rapidly with small dimensional movement and little tendency to check. It is relatively easy to work, with good machining qualities. It turns, planes and shapes well and can be sanded to a smooth finish. The wood glues easily, has moderate nail and screw holding ability and takes a good finish.
Machining

- Lodgepole pine
- Western white pine

Sanding

- Lodgepole pine
- Western white pine

Gluing

- Lodgepole pine
- Western white pine

Nail holding

- Lodgepole pine
- Western white pine

Screw holding

- Lodgepole pine
- Western white pine

Finishing

- Lodgepole pine
- Western white pine

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Density (air dry)</th>
<th>Specific Gravity (oven dry)</th>
<th>Modulus of Elasticity</th>
<th>Modulus of Rupture</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lodgepole pine</td>
<td>460 kg/m³</td>
<td>0.46</td>
<td>10 900 MPa</td>
<td>70.6 MPa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western white pine</td>
<td>420 kg/m³</td>
<td>0.40</td>
<td>10 100 MPa</td>
<td>64.1 MPa</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Commercial availability**

Widely available in all domestic and export markets.

**Principal uses**

Interior panelling, shelving, cutstock, furniture components, millwork, window components, veneer, structural lumber, trusses.