

height of 250 feet with a diameter up to 9 feet. Many growing trees are known to be over 500 years old while some reach ages of 1,000 years before showing signs of decay. Its wood is the strongest wood in the world for its weight that is obtainable in commercial sizes and quantities. It is ideal for building and structural timber and increases in strength as it seasons. The enormous beams sawn from this wood are used in heavy construction all over the world. Its range of uses varies all the way from the heaviest to the lightest work, the beautiful grain of its wood making it most attractive for interior decoration purposes. Douglas fir reaches perfection on the southern part of the British Columbia mainland and on Vancouver island but is also found in considerable quantities throughout Central British Columbia.

Western hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*) is also known as gray fir, Alaska spruce, western hemlock fir, western hemlock spruce, hemlock spruce and Prince Albert fir. Four species of hemlock are found in North America of which western hemlock is the largest and yields the best lumber. It grows from 125 to 150 feet high as a rule with a diameter of 2 to 5 feet but sometimes reaches greater proportions. The cool, moist climate of the coast is especially favourable to its growth but it is found in Central British Columbia in the valleys of the South fork of the Fraser and the upper part of the Thompson. Its wood is light, fairly soft, strong, tough, straight-grained, non-splintery, odourless and tasteless. It contains no pitch or resin and varies from light to reddish-brown in colour. It is easy to work, and finishes most beautifully. When stained and polished it is very handsome. The wood is also suitable for the manufacture of pulp and paper and the bark is rich in tannic acid.

Western red cedar (*Juniperus plicata*) is also known as giant cedar, British Columbia cedar, Pacific red cedar, canoe cedar, western cedar and shingle cedar. Of the four true cedars, two of which are found in Asia and two in America, the western red cedar species is by far the biggest and its wood the best. Its usual proportions are from 100 to 150 feet in height and 3 to 8 feet in diameter, but it sometimes reaches a height of 200 feet with a diameter of 15 feet. Its most remarkable characteristics are its durability and resistance to decay. The wood is exceptionally light, soft and of close straight grain. It is easy to handle and work and is remarkably free from warping, shrinking or swelling. These qualities make it much in demand for uses where it will be exposed to dampness. It has thus become the greatest shingle wood of North America. It is also used extensively for exterior finish, light frame construction, pilings, posts, poles, canoe and rowboat building, trellis work, fences, frames and sashes and generally in places where it will be exposed to the weather or the damp soil.

It is also widely used in the manufacture of moth-proof chests, drawers and boxes. Its rich brownish-red colour, exceeding lightness and faint pleasing aroma make it especially popular for such uses. It was these great cedars that the coast Indians used in the making of their huge war canoes and totem poles. They also used the inner fibres of the bark to make ropes, blankets and mats as well as thatches for their cabins.

The Sitka spruce (*Picea sitchensis*) is also called the giant spruce, silver spruce, tideland spruce and Alaska spruce. It is the largest species of the spruce family of which some eighteen varieties are found in North America. It grows only on the Pacific coast and attains perfection along the coast of Central British Columbia and on the Queen Charlotte islands. The average height of this tree is 150 feet with a diameter of 4 feet but it has been known to reach over 200 feet in height with a diameter up to 10 or 15 feet.