WHETHER you are planning to build a cabin, a bungalow or a mansion; a barn, a garage or just a garden fence—remember—"If You Build with Cypress, You Build But Once."

All down through the centuries, ever since white men first set foot in Florida and the Southland, Cypress has played an important part in the agricultural, industrial, cultural and economic development of the nation. Its utilization has increased with the progress of civilization until today there are hundreds of uses for this enduring wood.

"Tidewater" Red Cypress

"Tidewater" Red Cypress is the trade name applied to Cypress lumber cut from the trees grown in the tidal swamplands along the South Atlantic and Gulf Coasts, and extending inland to within one hundred miles of the coast-line. This slow growing variety is mostly heartwood. It is heavier and stronger and has a higher resistance to decay than the more rapid growing Inland or Upland Cypress, originating from the interior regions far from the sea-board. "Tidewater" Red Cypress ranges in color from slightly reddish to a deeper red, and from this all the way to almost black. But, of course, the safest and surest way to know that you are getting genuine "Tidewater" Red Cypress is to look for the arrow trade-mark on every board and bundle.

Its historic resistance to decay, termite attack, swelling and shrinking when properly dried, its splendid strength, nail holding and gluing properties, moderate hardness, the ease with which it can be worked and its attractive color and figure are desirable properties that account for its growing popularity for a variety of structural and industrial uses in the U. S. A. and in foreign countries.

"Pecky" Cypress

This is not a different species but is the name applied to the wood cut from Cypress which has been infected with a fungus popularly called pecky, peggy, or botty. This fungus enters the living trees through broken branches and tops, leaving pockets in the wood from a quarter of an inch to an inch in diameter and often several inches long. These pockets are partially filled with a brown powder, a deposit from the fungus. When the affected trees are felled, the fungus quits working. This "peckyness" of the living tree is not entirely injurious as it acts as a further preservative upon the wood which remains—vaccinates it as it were. It is a popular saying that "pecky cypress never rots."

For structural uses "Pecky" Cypress is generally employed for purposes where a high degree of resistance to decay is the primary requisite—in contact with soil, as for foundation timbers and for sidewalks and platforms in southern cities, also for barn and shed lumber. Industrially it likewise is extensively utilized—railroads use it for ties and fence posts; highway engineers for bridge floors and culverts and it is the preferred wood in greenhouses for boxes, walks, benches and partitions.

Of late years, "Pecky" Cypress has come into favor with architects and builders to achieve rustic effects, of which our A Century of Progress Exhibit (illumination within) is an excellent example. "Pecky" is also used for interior woodwork where antique effects are desired. A new line of furniture, created in "Pecky," is meeting with popular favor. "Pecky" blocks, laid on end, are also in demand for garden walks, terraces, etc., as grass will grow as readily in the pockets in the wood as between the blocks.

Durability

"Tidewater" Red Cypress has fully justified the appellation "the wood eternal" by which it is commonly called. In Technical Note No. 229 issued by the United States Forest Products Laboratory, June, 1929, it states that the heartwood of Cypress is one of the most durable of woods even under those conditions which favor decay.

There are also many striking examples of record to substantiate the claim made for the enduring qualities of "the wood eternal"... records of generations, yes centuries, of service under most exacting conditions. At our A Century of Progress Exhibit, you have seen (with...
Cypress Cottage Proves Rustic Charm

Soft Lines of Shingled Roof Agreeable Contrast to Prevalent Flat Roof Types at Century of Progress

A WINSOME CHAMPION of the sloping roof for homes—and especially for summer cottages—is the cypress log cabin at the Fair, planned and built by Murray Hetherington, architect, for the Southern Cypress Manufacturers Association. This exhibit building, charmingly placed in the Housing Group back of immense dahlia beds and with a characterful pergola of cypress logs leading up to it, is typical of a mountain lodge or rustic vacation cabin in the woodlands, exemplifying the use of log siding in connection with actual log posts, corners and brackets, and with a liberal use of cypress "knees" for ornamental effects.

The main feature of the cabin is a large living room which is used in this Century of Progress house for the display of the many decorative and practical commercial uses of tide water red cypress. This is a room 18 by 27 feet and open 13 feet high to the ridge pole. An immense limestone fireplace and chimney dominate the inner end. Beyond are spaces which, when used as a cottage, would afford flexible arrangement of dining and sleeping facilities for a small family.

The exterior of the cabin is made of pecky cypress log siding with the "pecks" highlighted in white, giving a very rustic and rugged effect, without the expense of solid log construction. Pecky cypress is characterized by the presence of numerous holes or grooves filled with a fibrous substance caused by a fungus that grows in the heart of many trees. While it looks decayed, curiously enough it is as durable as sound wood. The defect in the sense of appearance is really utilized to great advantage for antique and picturesque effects.

The east half of the cabin roof is covered with 24-inch hand rived shingles, the west half of the roof with machine rived, with weather exposure varying from 4 to 9 inches, giving the age old appearance of pioneer days. Butts are staggered slightly from ½ to ½ inches and in all cases laid perpendicular to the arc of the weave line. This method called for shaving one edge of the shingle or chopping the butt to make the weave line fairly continuous. The valleys are closed, and the ridges are capped with shingles. The starting line of the shingles at the eaves is staggered also.

The exterior of building was first covered with water proof paper nailed to studs, over which 2 x 8 inch chink pattern log siding was placed. At the openings, the log siding was beveled with a 30 degree cut. Rustic logwork was used for corners, porch posts and lintels, and for pergola ends as shown by plans and elevations. Logs may be peeled or left with bark on as desired.

(Reprinted from American Builder, June, 1933)
DETAILS CYPRESS COTTAGE
A CENTURY OF PROGRESS
Red Cypress, it is used to secure wonderful effects for interior trimmings, walls and paneling. As you pass through our exhibits when visiting our exhibit, it is susceptible to a number of beautiful treatments, several being exclusive to this wood alone, notably the "Sugi" or Japanese driftwood effect. It takes and holds finishes well. The same natural characteristics which make Cypress so valuable a wood for exterior uses, make it suitable for interior woodwork.

In farm buildings, "Tidewater" Red Cypress is extensively used for farm buildings, stock tanks, fences, silos and water tanks, incubators, beehives and numerous other uses where resistance to decay and termites makes especially valuable wood. As it imparts no taste, odor or color, it is extensively used for dairy buildings, butter churns, etc.

Industrial Uses

For large industrial buildings, "Tidewater" Red Cypress is often used for roofing timbers, decking and floors, window sash and framework generally. Beer tanks and vats, and tanks and vats for chemical solutions, are made of Cypress, as are those for many other similar uses. Because it gives off no odor or taste, Cypress tanks are extensively used for the storage of a wide range of food products, and for the same reason Cypress is the preferred wood for use in creameries, cooler towers, docks, boats, stadium and grandstand seating, etc., are other uses for which Cypress is predominant.

Principal Uses

"Tidewater" Red Cypress is extensively used in building and general construction. Particularly where the wood is exposed to the elements and comes in contact with the ground. Cypress has proven to be valuable material as illustrated above. Exterior trim, siding, porch columns, porch floors, window frames and sash, exterior doors and foundation timbers are the principal items for which Cypress has so conclusively demonstrated its superiority. For pergolas, arbors, trellises, garden furniture, fences, etc., it is without a peer. Owing to the beautiful figure and fine grade of "Tidewater" Cypress, it is used to secure wonderful effects for interior trimmings, walls and paneling. As you pass through our exhibits when visiting our exhibit, it is susceptible to a number of beautiful treatments, several being exclusive to this wood alone, notably the "Sugi" or Japanese driftwood effect. It takes and holds finishes well. The same natural characteristics which make Cypress so valuable a wood for exterior uses, make it suitable for interior woodwork.

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