*Cupressus lusitanica*
Family: Cupressaceae
Mexican Cypress

**Other Common Names:** Cipres (Latin America).

**Distribution:** Native to Mexico and probably Guatemala but now widely planted at high elevations throughout the tropical world.

**The Tree:** Height growth may exceed 100 ft with a bole diameter of 2 to 3 ft, sometimes reaching 5 ft. Logs are usually well shaped, straight, and cylindrical.

**The Wood:**
**General Characteristics:** Heartwood yellowish, pale brown, or pinkish, sometimes streaked or variegated; sapwood paler, usually sharply demarcated. Grain straight irregular; texture fine and uniform; luster rather high; fragrantly scented.

**Weight:** Basic specific gravity (ovendry weight/green volume) 0.43; air-dry density 32 pcf.

**Mechanical Properties:** (2-in. standard; plantation grown)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Moisture content</th>
<th>Bending strength</th>
<th>Modulus of elasticity</th>
<th>Maximum crushing strength</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(%)</td>
<td>(Psi)</td>
<td>(1,000 psi)</td>
<td>(Psi)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12% (27)</td>
<td>12,400</td>
<td>1,390</td>
<td>5,820</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green (66)</td>
<td>6,160</td>
<td>925</td>
<td>2,880</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12%</td>
<td>10,270</td>
<td>1,020</td>
<td>5,380</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Janka side hardness 340 lb for green material and 460 lb at 12% moisture content.

**Drying and Shrinkage:** Air-dries very rapidly with little or no end or surface checking and only slight warp. Kiln schedule T10-D5S is suggested for 4/4 stock and T8-D4S for 8/4. Shrinkage green to ovendry: volumetric 8.0%.

**Working Properties:** The wood is easy to work with hand and machine tools, easy to nail, and stains and polishes well.

**Durability:** Reports on durability are conflicting.

**Preservation:** The heartwood is reported to be not treatable by the open-tank process and to have an irregular response to pressure-vacuum systems. Treatment may be improved considerably by incising.

**Uses:** Posts and poles, furniture components, and general construction.

**Additional Reading:** (27), (56), (66)

