



GRADE CLASSIFICATION — HAND-GRADED HARDWOOD

Premium Grade

Our Premium Grade represents the **highest standard of quality and appearance**. Every board is graded **by hand** — inspected at the log yard, the sawmill, and again at the finished moulder — and at minimum **one face is always clear**. Recommended for siding, decking, and outdoor applications.

THE GOOD FACE One <i>clear face</i> on every board	INSPECTION Graded by hand at <i>three</i> stages	RECOMMENDED FOR Siding · Decking · Outdoor
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GRADING CRITERIA · INSPECTED BY HAND SIX POINTS

<p>01 Clear Wood Primary criterion</p> <p>The grader judges the percentage of clear, defect-free material first. Premium boards must read high — free of any defect that compromises structural integrity or appearance.</p>	<p>04 Bark Insertions Small · minimal</p> <p>Small bark insertions pass when minimal and well-placed — adding rustic character to the back face without affecting overall quality.</p>
<p>02 Knots ≤ 3" dia. · sound</p> <p>Each knot is measured by eye and hand. Sound knots three inches or less pass — they must not weaken the board, and should enhance its natural beauty.</p>	<p>05 Checks < 1/12 length</p> <p>Surface checks are walked the length of the board. Acceptable below one-twelfth of total length — never deep enough to impair function.</p>
<p>03 Mineral Streaks Minor · permissible</p> <p>Minor mineral streaks are permitted. They should never dominate, but subtly accentuate the wood's natural color and texture.</p>	<p>06 Worm Holes By diameter — see scale</p> <p>Holes are sized against a gauge and classified by diameter — each permitted as a single occurrence, as charted below.</p>

CRITERION 06

Worm Hole Tolerances


PIN
≤ 1/16"


SPOT
1/16–1/8"


SHOT
1/8–1/4"


GRUB
≥ 1/4"

THE STANDARD

The **National Hardwood Lumber Association** sets the grading rules for all North American hardwood.

Black Locust Lumber **exceeds these rules** — we manufacture to a higher standard, and grade by hand at every stage rather than by machine.

THE GRADE FAMILY — THREE STANDARDS

<p>SITE FURNISHING All-side clear — our highest standard.</p>	<p>SITE FURNISHINGS & FINE DETAIL</p>
<p>PREMIUM · THIS SHEET One clear face, with the defined tolerances above.</p>	<p>SIDING · DECKING & OUTDOOR</p>
<p>NO. 1 COMMON Sound and structural for ground work.</p>	<p>LANDSCAPE, GARDEN BEDS & POSTS</p>