

TIMBER SPECIES

Timber Comparison

How our White Cypress Pine stacks up against common alternatives, so you know exactly what you're paying for.

1. Australian White Cypress Pine (*Callitris glaucophylla*)

The Barling's Standard — the only timber we use for our fencing posts and rails. A native Australian softwood that shares many properties with hardwood.

In-Ground Durability: ✓ Class 2 (15–25 Years)

Above-Ground Durability: ✓ Class 1 (40+ Years)

Termite Resistance: Natural & High — the timber contains natural resins that repel white ants without chemicals.

Chemical Treatment: None — 100% natural and safe for families, pets and livestock.

The Verdict: The ultimate fencing timber. It combines the high durability of premium hardwoods with a natural resistance to decay, all without toxic treatments.

2. Cypress Macrocarpa (*Cupressus macrocarpa*)

The “Cheap” Alternative — often marketed simply as “Cypress,” this introduced species (often from farm windbreaks) looks similar to White Cypress but is structurally inferior for fencing.

In-Ground Durability: ✗ Class 3 (5–15 Years)

Above-Ground Durability: ✗ Class 2–3 (15–25 Years)

Termite Resistance: Low to Moderate — it lacks the potent natural oils found in Australian White Cypress.

The Verdict: Macrocarpa is notoriously unreliable in the ground and prone to rot and fungal decay at the soil line. Excellent for furniture or internal use, but a gamble as fence posts — often leading to expensive replacements within a decade.

3. Grey Ironbark (*Eucalyptus paniculata*)

The Gold Standard of Hardwoods — one of Australia's hardest and most durable timbers.

In-Ground Durability: ✓ Class 1 (25+ Years)

Above-Ground Durability: ✓ Class 1 (40+ Years)

Termite Resistance: High

The Verdict: An incredible timber for heavy engineering and structural posts. Significantly heavier, harder to work with, and more expensive than Cypress, but its longevity is unmatched. We recommend it for heavy-duty structural applications.

4. Spotted Gum (*Corymbia maculata*)

The Popular Premium Hardwood — known for its striking grain and strength, a favourite for decking and flooring.

In-Ground Durability: ✓ Class 2 (15–25 Years)

Above-Ground Durability: ✓ Class 1 (40+ Years)

Termite Resistance: High

The Verdict: A fantastic all-rounder that shares the same Class 2 In-Ground rating as our White Cypress. However, it requires more maintenance to keep its colour and is often at a higher price point due to demand in the decking market.