

FIREWOOD

USDA PPQ Seattle Plant Inspection Station

Compiled by G.A. van de Kerckhove

HARDWOODS

vs.

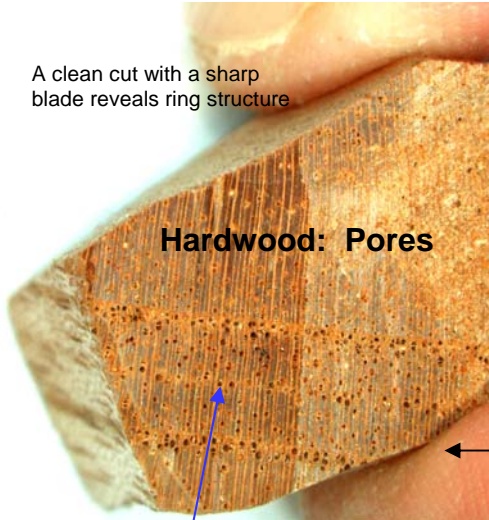
SOFTWOODS

1. It is difficult to dent most hardwoods with your nail.
2. Freshly cut hardwood logs will often have a wet wood scent.
3. Seasoned hardwood usually lacks any detectable scent except perhaps that of mold.

To be absolutely sure that you have identified the firewood as either a hard or softwood you must make a cross-section cut (known as a transverse cut) across the growth rings and look closely at the rings with a hand lens.

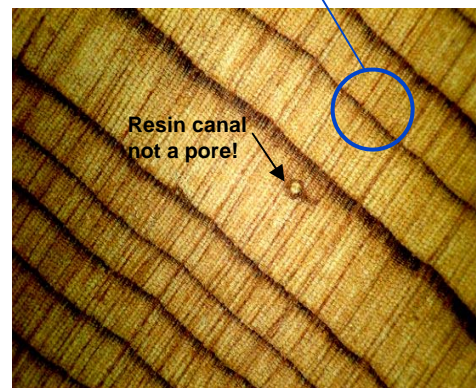
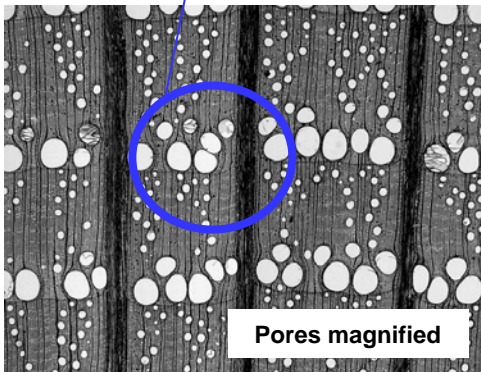
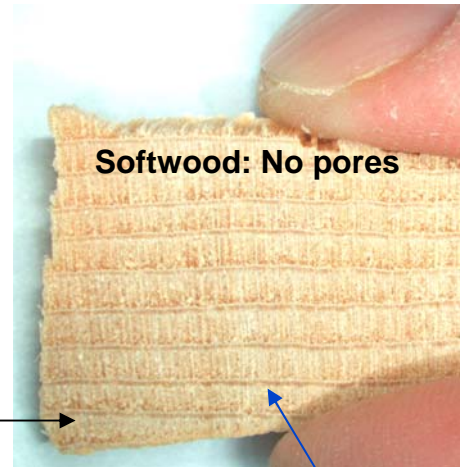
1. It is easy to dent most softwoods with your nail.
2. Freshly cut softwoods will often have a "piney" scent due to the resin content.
3. Seasoned softwood can sometimes be freshly wounded or scraped to release a "piney" scent.

A clean cut with a sharp blade reveals ring structure



WHAT YOU'LL SEE

(LOOK FOR PORES)



HARDWOODS HAVE PORES
SOFTWOODS DO NOT HAVE PORES