

FIREWOOD

USDA PPQ Seattle Plant Inspection Station

Compiled by G.A. van de Kerckhove

HARDWOODS

vs.

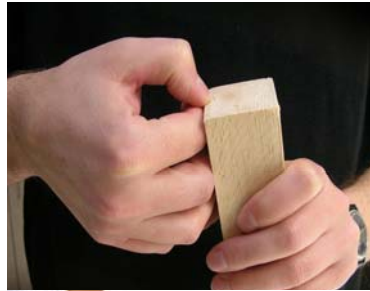
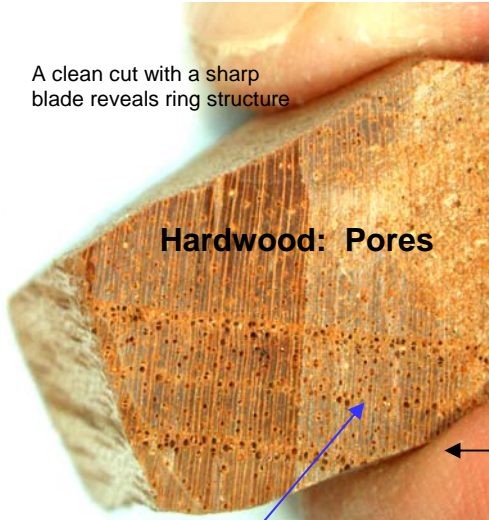
SOFTWOODS

1. It is difficult to dent a hardwood 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.

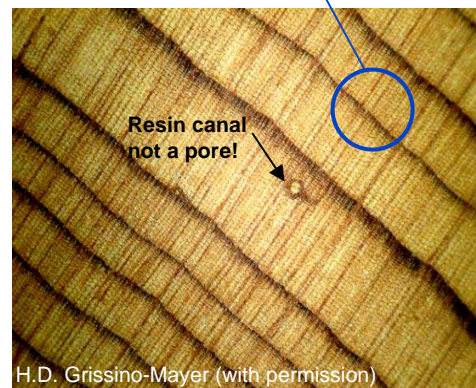
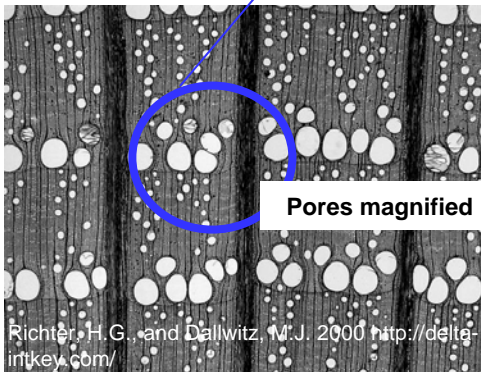
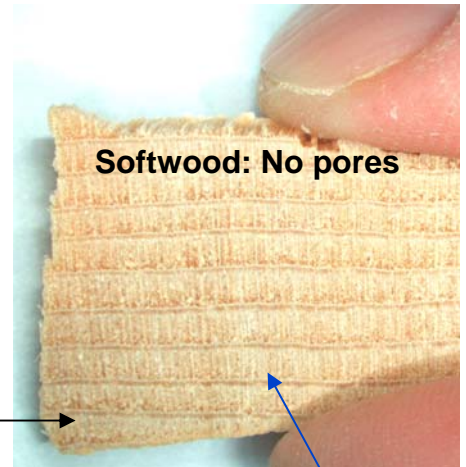
1. It is easy to dent a softwood with your nail.
2. Freshly cut softwoods will often have a "piney" scent due to the resin content.
3. Seasoned softwood can sometimes be freshly wounded or scraped to release a "piney" scent.

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