



Information Sheet

Natural Durability

In a long term fence post service life study since 1928, Oregon State University reported Western Juniper to last 30+ years, longer than any other untreated western species(2).

Western Juniper has been used for decades for fence posts, poles, corrals, and firewood because it is extremely durable and resistant to rot(4).

“For woods that have a natural durability, such as juniper, preservative treatment is not necessary”(1).

“A natural benefit of using wood fence posts is how they enhance the beauty of the landscape”(1).

“Wood blends with the countryside, giving unity and harmony to nature”(1).

“Wood posts stay in the ground better (than steel) because more surface area is in contact with the surrounding soil”(1).

Durability Classification Scale(3)

1. Very Resistant	Western Juniper	= 1
2. Resistant	Redwood	= 2
3. Moderately Resistant	Western Redcedar	= 2
4. Nonresistant	Lodgepole Pine	= 3-4

Western Juniper is the only renewable & durable organic alternative available.

Western Juniper burns clean and produces little ash, eliminating the disposal problems associated with treated wood and steel(4).

Nail withdrawal strength of Western Juniper is 197psi, higher than Douglas Fir (184psi) and Ponderosa Pine (117psi)(5)(6).

References:

- (1) S&PF Technology Marketing Unit. 2001. *Wood Fence Posts*. USDA Forest Service, Forest Products Laboratory, Madison, WI
- (2) Morrell, J.J.; Miller, D.J.; Scheider, P.F. 1999. *Service life of treated and untreated fence posts: 1996 post farm report*. Research Contribution 26, Forest Research Laboratory, Oregon State University.
- (3) Scheffer, T.C.; Morrell, J.J. 1998. *Natural Durability of Wood: A Worldwide Checklist of Species*. Research Contribution 22. Forest Research Laboratory, Oregon State University.
- (4) Dealy, J.E. 1990. *Juniperus occidentalis* Hook. *western juniper*. In: Burns, R. M.; Honkala, B.H., technical coordinators. *Silvics of North America. Volume 1. Conifers*. Agric. Handb. 654. USDA Forest Service, Washington, DC
- (5) Burke, E.J. 1994a. *Mechanical Properties of Western Juniper*. School of Forestry, University of Montana.
- (6) Forest Products Laboratory. 1999. *Wood handbook—Wood as an engineering material*. Gen. Tech. Rep. FPL-GTR-113. USDA Forest Service, Forest Products Laboratory, Madison, WI