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# DISCOVER ALDER: A STRATEGIC ALTERNATIVE TO POPLAR

As the industry faces price volatility with Poplar, Alder offers a reliable option, sharing similar desirable qualities for quality and workability. With its comparable characteristics, Alder is a smart choice for maintaining production standards and efficiency. Alder prices also fluctuate, just not as much as other hardwoods.



Alder Millwork, Craftsmen in Wood

## Overview of Alder

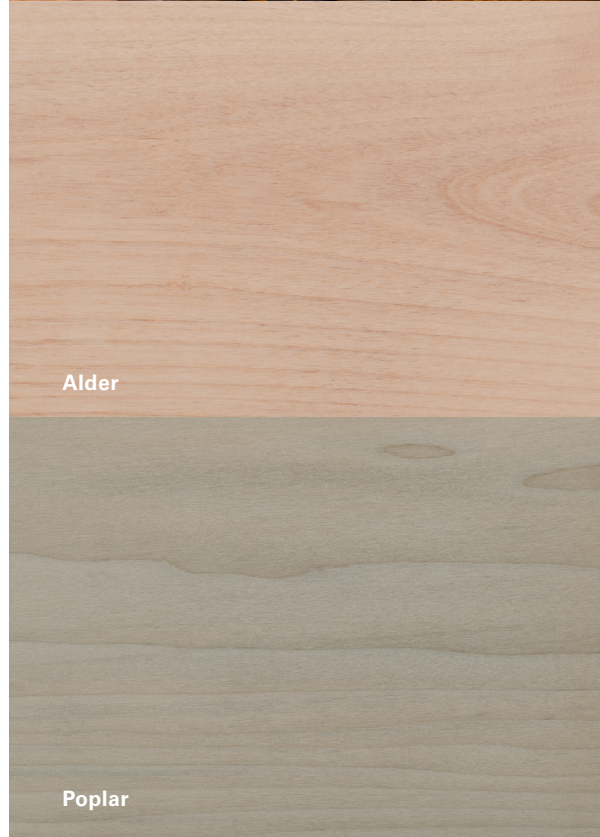
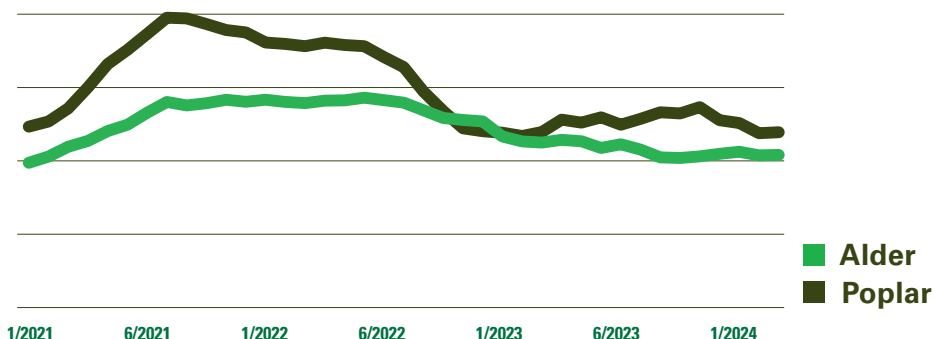
Alder is a robust alternative, mirroring Poplar’s workable properties and while excelling with aesthetic appeal. It is easy to machine and finish, featuring a color palette that ranges from light tan to reddish-brown. The uniform closed grain and a subtle elegance to finished products. More importantly, Alder is typically more stable in price, offering a reliable alternative for those affected by Poplar’s market volatility.

## Overview of Poplar

Poplar is a favored utility wood known for its ease of use and broad application range. Its whitish cast and a straight grain pattern makes it suitable for furniture, cabinetry, and millwork. Its soft nature allows for effortless machining and effortless machining and carving milling, yet it retains strong enough strength for many applications. However, the demand for Poplar makes its price susceptible vulnerable to market changes, affecting supply stability.

## Price Trends

*NWH weighted average of grades and thicknesses*



Alder

Poplar



## Learn More

[nwh.com/alder](https://nwh.com/alder)



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## SIMILARITIES BETWEEN ALDER AND POPLAR



Alder



Poplar

### Workability:

Both Alder and Poplar process similarly and are forgiving which make for efficient high volume runs. Alder edges out Poplar in being more dimensionally stable.

### Aesthetic Appeal:

Alder features a consistent warm hue, offering an inviting and cohesive appearance with greater aesthetic appeal. In contrast, Poplar varies in color from creamy white to dark green, making consistency more challenging.

### Versatility:

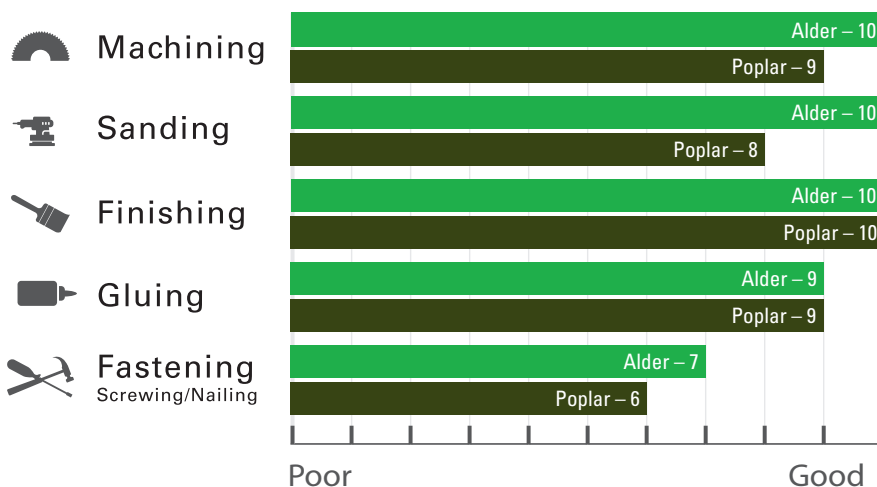
Both species have a similar Janka hardness in the mid-upper 500 range. Their durable nature allows them to be used in a variety of products from cabinets to mouldings, ensuring flexibility in application and design.

### Species Comparison Data

Lumber (12% Moisture Content)	Weight per bdf	Specific Gravity (Density)	Hardness (Janka)	Bending Strength (MOR)	Bending Stiffness (MOE)	Dimensional Movement (Shrinkage)	
						R (%)	T (%)
Alder	2.45	.41	590	9800	1380	4.4	7.3
Poplar	2.81	.43	540	10100	1580	4.6	8.2

Source - Wood Database

### Species Comparison Chart



### Alder Grades at a Glance

#### Alder Upper Grades

For longer/wider clear cuttings used in case goods, cabinets, furniture and millwork.

#### Alder Mid Grades

Used when clear shorter/narrower pieces are needed. Stiles and rails, face frames, drawer fronts.

#### Alder Low Grades

Good for short narrow pieces that can be finger jointed into panels or used for rustic applications.