

TECHNICAL NOTE NUMBER 206

FOREST PRODUCTS LABORATORY - U. S. FOREST SERVICE - MADISON, WISCONSIN

COMPARISON OF COMMERCIAL GRADES AND FOREST SERVICE BASIC GRADES FOR YARD LUMBER

The accompanying chart shows a comparison of the yard lumber grades of the principal softwood manufacturers' associations and the basic grades proposed by the U. S. Forest Service. Each column in the chart represents the range in lumber quality from the best to the poorest found in commercial use. The grade divisions into which the Forest Service basic grading rules separate the material cut by the different associations are indicated in each column by the double line projections of the basic grades shown in the left-hand column. The comparative positions of the grade rectangles indicate the differences in the quality of material admissible in the grades when the official grading rules of the associations are followed. In one or two cases a line between grades has been raised or lowered a little when actual grading practices have been found to differ from an association's published grading rules.

The chart may be used as a guide in purchasing lumber. Anyone wishing to change from a species of wood with which he is familiar to some other wood can tell the grade of material he should order. Thus, a user of C Select white pine changing to Douglas fir would select a grade of No. 3 Clear. It must be remembered, however, that the grades are compared in the chart only by the defects permitted, and that no allowance is made for the inherent qualities of the woods themselves or their suitability for certain purposes. The quality of the clear wood may be great enough in some cases to offset to some extent the effect of the defects present.

