Beech characteristics are hardness, greater strength, good shock resistance, and conspicuous wood rays with tiny and virtually invisible wood pores. Beech is used for curved parts of furniture and in Scandinavian type furniture.

Alder is a hardwood from the Pacific Northwest. It is very consistent in color and takes stain well. It ranks third behind oak and pine as the wood most commonly used for ready-to-finish furniture. Alder gives the look of many fine hardwoods at a reasonable price.

Aspen is a softer, light-colored, even-grained hardwood. It accepts most stains well, but may need a sealer or a coat of mineral spirits to achieve an even stain. Nonpenetrating stains work best on this wood.

Maple is especially abundant in the eastern U.S. It is a very light-colored hardwood with a very even grain texture. Eastern maples are generally harder than western maples because of the colder winters and shorter growing seasons. Both are very durable and take any color of stain well.

Oak is the wood most commonly used for ready-to-finish furniture. It is a very hard, open-grain wood and stains well in any color.

Parawood is a hard wood that comes from the great rubber plantations of Malaysia. The density of parawood is comparable to that of birch or ash. Its strength is rated the same as maple. Parawood is easy to finish and matches well with a variety of other woods. Once a rubber tree is no longer able to produce sufficient quantities of latex, it is cut for the process of furniture making and a new tree is planted in its place. This is and example of man's ability to fully utilize our natural resources, without harming the environment.

Pine is a softwood that comes in many varieties from various parts of the world. Pine has a yellow coloring with brown knots and is excellent for staining. With some stains, a sealer helps prepare the wood to achieve a more even look.

Ash characteristics are pleasant contrasting color when stained, distinct straight grain with open pores, toughness, heavy weight, hardness, and good shock resistance. Ash is often used in constructing bentwood chairs.

Birch characteristics are hardness, weight, greater strength, beautiful natural finish, small wood pores, and good shock resistance. Birch is used for structural and exposed parts of furniture and veneers. It is also used as a substitute for mahogany and walnut.

Cherry characteristics are moderate hardness, greater strength, durability, good shock and wear resistance, rich color, and straight grain with small individual pores. Cherry is often used as a veneer and for Provincial and Early American Furniture.

Mahogany characteristics are even texture, medium hardness, greater strength, heavy weight, easy to carve, beautiful finish, and predominate grain pattern with open wood

pores. Mahogany is used for veneers and carved wood pieces. It is also an inexpensive wood that can be stained to look like more expensive woods.

Pecan characteristics are its greater weight, closed wood pores, contrasting grain color when stained, hardness, and strength. Pecan is used for furniture and wall paneling.

Poplar characteristics are its closed wood pores, even staining, durability, and greater strength. Poplar is often used inside of upholstered and wood furniture.

Teak characteristics are heavy weight, expensive, greater strength, oiliness, and toughness. Teak is often used in paneling and furniture. Teak is often found in Oriental furniture.

Walnut characteristics are hardness, greater strength, great stability, expensive, heaviness, durability, carvability, and good shock resistance. Walnut is used for veneers, paneling, and solid furniture.

Cedar is knotty, highly aromatic, moderately hard, brittle, and resistant to decay, light weight, holds paint, and (red cedar) repellent to moths. Cedar is used for unfinished and outdoor furniture. Red cedar is used for lining drawers and chests.

Redwood is light weight, moderately hard, stable, very strong, and resistant to decay, rot, and weather. Redwood is used for outdoor furniture and unfinished furniture.