Southern Yellow Pine

Pinus palustris, Pinus elliottii, Pinus echinata, Pinus taeda.
Also known as: American pitch pine, Gulf Coast pitch pine, long leaf pitch pine (UK, USA), southern yellow pine (USA), southern pine (USA), long leaf pine, short leaf pine, loblolly pine.

WOOD TYPE Softwood

INTRODUCTION The structural species mix 'Southern pine' comprises longleaf pine (Pinus palustris Mill.), slash pine (Pinus elliottii Engelm.), shortleaf pine (Pinus echinata Mill.), and loblolly pine (Pinus taeda L.). The mechanical properties quoted are for this species mix.

ENVIRONMENTAL The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species classifies P. elliotii, P.echinata and P.taeda as LR – Lower Risk (least concern) and P.palustris as VU - Vunerable: at risk of extinction
Not listed in CITES. Believed available from well-managed sources.

DISTRIBUTION P. palustris ranges from south-east Virginia to Florida and Texas occurring along the coasts of the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico in a forest belt some 200 kilometres deep. P. elliottii occurs in the same area but is more restricted, ranging from South Carolina to Florida and along the Gulf to eastern Louisiana.

THE TREE Both species attain a height of 30m and a diameter of 0.75m or slightly more.

THE TIMBER The sapwood is narrow in the better grades, sometimes up to 50mm wide, lighter in colour than the heartwood which is yellowish-brown to reddish-brown. Both species are typical of the hard-pine class, being resinous, with the growth-rings usually well-marked by the contrast between the light-coloured early-wood, and the dense, darker-coloured late-wood, which produces a rather coarse texture in the wood, especially in fairly rapidly grown material with its wide growth-rings. The timbers weigh about 670 kg/m^3 on average when dried. The lower density material of P. palustris and P. elliottii together with other species termed southern yellow pine, is lighter in weight, coarser in texture, inferior in strength, and usually has a wider sapwood, sometimes as wide as 1 50mm.

DRYING All these species dry well with little degrade.

STRENGTH The general strength properties of P. palustris and P. elliottii compare closely with those of 'Douglas fir".

WORKING QUALITIES Medium - Works moderately easily, but the resin is often troublesome, tending to clog saw-teeth and cutters, and to adhere to machine tables. Saws with teeth of fairly long pitch reduce the effect of resin. A good finish is obtainable, and the wood can be glued satisfactorily, takes nails and screws well, and gives fair results with paint and other finishing treatments.

Durability	Slightly durable	**Chemical Properties**	–
Treatability	Extremely difficult	**Colour(s)**	Reddish brown
	Easy (Sapwood)	**Use(s)**	Joinery - Exterior, Joinery
Moisture Movement	Medium		Interior, Structural use, Decking
Density (mean, Kg/m^3)	670 (Density can vary by 20% or more)		
Texture	Medium		