Paulownia was named after Queen Anna Pavlovna of Russia (1795-1865), and is also known as Royal Paulownia, Princess Tree, and Kiri (in Japan). The tree is native to eastern Asia and is also planted in eastern North America. Paulownia is one of the fastest growing trees in the world, capable of growth rates well over 7 feet per year as a seedling! It can grow to be up to 30 to 60 feet (10 to 12 meters) tall with a 2 to 4 feet (.6 to 1.2 meters) trunk diameter. While it’s highly appreciated and cultivated in Asia, Paulownia is just recently getting recognized as a valuable and sustainable wood source in the United States.

It is heartwood that is typically pale grayish brown in color, sometimes with a reddish or purplish hue, depending on drying procedures. The grain is generally straight, with a coarse, uneven texture. Very large pores give Paulownia a striped, porous look. Reported to be durable regarding decay resistance, with decent weathering characteristics, it is a very light, fine-grained, soft, and warp-resistant wood. Excellent for a wide range of woodworking projects big and small.

Currently, Paulownia is used in applications where a lightweight yet proportionately strong wood is needed. It is widely used in Japan for construction of the Koto (a stringed musical instrument), as well as other household items, where the wood is referred to as Kiri. It is also used for plywood, veneer, furniture, boxes, millwork/siding, musical instruments (electric guitar bodies), clogs, carvings, surf boards, molding, marine grade board, and other small specialty items.

We have a ready supply of dried, rough cut lumber but through our suppliers we can offer everything from timber logs to planed ready to use boards.