



### ***Kamps Hardwoods, Inc. Walnut (Juglans Nigra)***

Black walnut has long been considered the premier American Hardwood. Founded in 2010, Kamps Hardwoods, Inc.- Pure Michigan Hardwoods- specializes in manufacturing kiln dried lumber from standing timber harvested throughout the great state of Michigan. The company is the furthestmost northern member of the American Walnut Manufacturers Association (AWMA). Walnut has become the company's signature product and makes up 40% of their total kiln dried production.

Kamps Hardwoods owns and operates Buskirk Lumber Company, a 100+ year member of the National Hardwood Lumber Association (NHLA). Kamps relies on the Buskirk sawmill facility as its primary source for its walnut supply. Through first class technology and state of the art equipment and facilities, the experienced sawmill provides Kamps a foundation of consistency in manufacturing only the highest quality of hardwood products. Kamps produces 4/4 through 12/4 thicknesses in plain sawn walnut. Walnut products are offered in NHLA grades, 2Com&Btr, as well as many proprietary grades, width pulls, and color sorts. Kamps has developed custom cut sawmill programs, which include live sawing and kiln drying products such as flitch-cut slabs, boules, and lumber as well as cutting non-standard thicknesses like 3/4 and 7/4.

At the kiln drying facility, Kamps utilizes high standards of control during the steaming, air drying, kiln drying, packaging, and tallying processes. The facility utilizes two steamers, and walnut is steamed for a minimum of 72 hours at high temperature. Stickers are placed every foot on the automated stacker to ensure that lumber is kept more flat during the drying process. While air drying, lumber is staged in open sided sheds to protect stock from the sun and other outside elements. The company adheres to continuous testing of samples and strict kiln schedules for uniform moisture content at 6-8%. Lumber is inspected numerous times to ensure quality, both before steaming and after kiln drying. Packaging of lumber is done with extreme care and the bundle presentation matches the high quality of the material itself. An experienced sales and export team provides superior service in shipping worldwide.

Because black walnut is one of the most highly valued hardwood species, the NHLA grading rules differ for walnut from most other U.S. species. The rules are more forgiving of knots, wane, sapwood, and other defects. The sapwood of walnut is creamy white, whereas the heartwood is a dark chocolate brown, making the difference in color quite distinct. The steaming process only softens this color difference. Kamps Hardwoods has recognized that the NHLA grading standards may not adhere to the more stringent requirements of many of our customers, so the firm has established a number of proprietary grades that provide a range of color standards and allowance of for defects.

Standard grades at Kamps Hardwoods include:

- Oak Rules Prime, 90/70+
- NHLA FAS/1F, 90/50+
- NHLA FAS/1F, Unselected for color
- NHLA FAS/1F, Sappy
- 1Com, Unselected for color
- 2ACom, Unselected for color



- Rustic

Kamps most superior grade of “Oak Rules Prime, 90/70+” is a selection of only the finest boards from each sawmill production run- with only approximately 10% of traditional NHLA walnut grading rules FAS qualified to be selected into this sort. Stock is graded to NHLA grading rules for White Oak FAS/1F and does not allow the elimination of standard defects. Color must meet a minimum of 90% heartwood on the good face, and the reverse face must be a minimum of 70% heart.

The NHLA FAS/1F, 90/50+ sort requires a minimum of 90% heartwood on one face, and 50% minimum on the reverse face. Although the stock is inspected to a minimum of traditional NHLA walnut grading rules, the company sets improved standards in the grade, to include tighter edging and boards with less wane, better average widths, minimal splits, and a cleaner overall appearance of lumber with fewer knots.

NHLA FAS/1F, Unselected for color sort meets the NHLA traditional walnut grading standards and has no color selection. To create a truly “unselected” product, Kamps will cut separate full log production runs for this sort. Nothing is pulled from these runs, so customers can expect to find all levels of grades and colors, from FAS/1F Sappy, 90/50+, and Oak Rules Prime in this grade sort.

NHLA FAS/1F Sappy meets the NHLA traditional walnut grading rules; but will contain a great deal more sapwood as this is the off-fall from the higher color standard products the company manufacturers. This is an economically priced product that typically has very few knots as the majority of the boards come from the outside of the log.

1Com and 2ACom walnut are graded according to NHLA walnut grading rules. Improved sorts for color are provided upon request. The Rustic sort is pulled from 1Com and 2ACom, and limits wane, splits, and unsound defects. The company is always open to developing other proprietary grades upon requests.

While dedicated to proper management and best practices in forestry of this valuable walnut resource, Kamps Hardwoods is FSC® certified, FSC®C139650, and active in the following organizations that strongly promote sustainability: National Hardwood Lumber Association, American Walnut Manufacturers Association, American Hardwood Export Council, and Indiana Hardwood Lumber Association.