BURNING QUALITIES OF WOOD

In general, hard woods will burn slowly, whereas soft woods burn fast. Use soft wood as kindling to start the fire and hard wood as fuel when it is established. The wood is assumed to be dry and seasoned. This page covers local English trees only.

Alder
A poor fuel, it burns quickly but gives off little heat.

Apple
A good fuel, it burns slowly and gives off a good heat. It is ideal for cooking as it gives off little flame and produces a pleasant smell.

Ash
One of the best burning woods. Produces both heat and flame, and will also burn well when green.

Beech
Like Ash, it produces both heat and flame, though it does not burn as well when green. It also has a tendency to spark

Birch
Produces good heat but burns quickly.

Blackthorn
Burns slowly, with lots of heat and little smoke.

Cedar
Good for cooking as it gives lots of heat with little flame, and has a pleasant smell.

Cherry
Burns slowly and with lots of heat.

Douglas Fir
Produces little flame or heat

Elder
Burns quickly and with little heat. Is very smokey.

Elm
Slow burning but may smoke. Burns poorly unless seasoned.

Hawthorn
Burns slowly with lots of heat and little smoke.
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**Hazel**
A good fuel.

**Holly**
Good when seasoned.

**Hornbeam**
Another good fuel.

**Horse chestnut**
Produces both heat and flame, but tends to spit a lot.

**Larch**
Fairly good for heat.

**Laurel**
Produces a good flame

**Lime**
A poor fuel

**Maple**
A good fuel

**Oak**
Produces little flame and an acrid smoke but is a very slow burning fuel which give off lots of heat.

**Pear**
Produces good heat

**Pine**
Burns well but tends to spit. The resinous wood makes good kindling.

**Poplar**
A mediocre fuel.

**Spruce**
Burns very quickly and sparks badly.

**Sycamore**
Burns well but generates only moderate heat.

**Walnut**
A good fuel

**Willow**
A poor wood. Is completely useless when green.

**Yew**
Burns slowly and with a fierce heat.