Hardwood versus Softwood comparison chart

	Hardwood	Softwood
Definition	Comes from **angiosperm trees**. Has **vessel elements** that transport water throughout the wood; under a microscope, these elements appear as **pores**.	Comes from **gymnosperm trees**. When viewed under a microscope, softwoods have **no visible pores**.
Uses	Hardwoods are more likely to be found in **things that need to last**.	Softwoods have **a wide range of applications**.
Density	**higher density**	**lower density**
Cost	**more expensive**.	**less expensive**.
Growth	**slower growth rate**	**faster rate of growth**
Shedding of leaves	Hardwoods **shed their leaves** over a period of time in **autumn** and **winter**.	Softwoods **tend to keep** their needles throughout the year.
Fire Resistance	**More**	**Poor**