Manufacturers of southern cypress are reporting a welcomed uptick in cypress sales. The appealing species is being used for a variety of applications outdoors and in. And members of the Southern Cypress Manufacturers Association (SCMA) are crediting the increased demand to the wood’s beauty, versatility and dependable performance.

“Cypress offers undeniable good looks and more,” says Brian Meier of Cypress Rose Sawmill, Homerville, Ga., and current SCMA president. “What’s been drawing more homeowners, contractors, and design professionals to cypress is its natural durability. A preservative oil called cypressene is produced in cypress heartwood, making the wood resistant to decay and insects. And so, it’s very popular for outdoor applications because it doesn’t need to be pressure treated like some other species.”

“Right now in our area,” says Hal Mitchell, Atlanta Hardwood Corp., Mableton, Ga., “cypress siding is very popular. Select grade, tongue-and-groove patterns in various widths are the most in-demand products, but #2 grade is gaining interest in wider widths—6-inch and 8-inch.”

Chuck Harris, Custom Lumber Manufacturing Co., Dothan, Al., agrees and says the increased demand in the siding market isn’t just in the South. “I’ve been fielding more and

BEAUTY MEETS DURABILITY: The demand for cypress is going up as people are noticing it’s aesthetically pleasing as it is sustainable. More and more are we seeing cypress cover the interior of the home such as living rooms and bathrooms.

(All photos courtesy of SCMA)
more inquiries from up north and the West Coast,” Harris says. “People are calling for cypress product and availability information because it’s competitively priced and fast becoming an alternative siding option in areas of the country that have traditionally been cedar territory.”

Linwood Truitt, Beasley Forest Products, Hazlehurst, Ga., says his customers are using cypress in other interesting and unique ways: “We’re seeing cypress being used in outdoor living spaces. It’s a beautiful wood that can stand up to the elements, and cypress beams and timbers are being used in the construction of patios, pergolas, and poolside grilling areas. And tongue-and-groove patterns are always popular for outdoor ceilings. There’s also been an increase in crafting cypress into outdoor furniture, such as tables and bars.”

“In our market cypress sales, for both outdoor and indoor applications, are being fueled by the farm house elegance and rustic appeal of the wood. The weathered appearance of rough-sawn cypress is making it a popular siding choice for barns in our area,” says John Stevenson, Thomp- son Hardwoods, Hazlehurst, Ga. “We’ve also been selling cypress for use in door and window casings and furniture. Beadboard ceilings and paneling are becoming popular again, too.”

Brian Meier has experienced much of the same. “There’s strong demand for the common grades right now,” Meier says, “and not just for paneling and ceilings. In kitchens and bathrooms for example, cypress’ rustic chic look is making it a popular choice for cabinetry and trim. Rustic furniture builders are fabricating cypress into everything from coffee tables to foyer tables to kitchen tables and even headboards. I’ve also had calls from designers who are specifically asking for weathered, rough-sawn boards to be used as wall art.”

– For more information on southern cypress and to see how it’s being used, visit www.cypressinfo.org.

![ClearSpan fabric structures](image1)

**SALES** for both outdoor and indoor applications are being fueled by various trends, one being the rustic appeal of wood and farmhouse elegance.