

Kyoto

北  
山  
丸  
太<sup>®</sup>

Kitayama Maruta

Trademark Registration No.5011299



北  
山  
杉<sup>®</sup>

Kitayama Sugi

Trademark Registration No.5111905







What is Kitayama Sugi/Kitayama Maruta?

It is thought that Kitayama Sugi (Japanese cedar) was first produced during the Ouei era (1394 to 1427) in the Muromachi period. The bark of the Kitayama Sugi was stripped and the wood processed to create Kitayama Maruta (Japanese cedar logs in the round) that were frequently used for the construction of tearooms and tea houses that served to support the “Cha-no-yu (tea ceremony)” culture that was perfected by Sen-no-Rikyu, giving the wood a history that stretches back some 600 years. During this time, the persistent efforts and wisdom of our predecessors cultivated the consistent silviculture and processing techniques we possess today. Structures such as the Katsura and Shugakuin Imperial Villas, and Shimabara Sumi-ya are representative of Sukiya style construction using Kitayama Maruta.

Kitayama Maruta is a general term that includes polished round logs, artificially and naturally striated logs, menkawabashira (wood with four planed sides but retaining natural texture) and rafters, with their special characteristics being a fine wood surface having a velvety and lustrous surfacepolished appearance after the bark is stripped, and having a resistance to drying and cracking.

This refined quality of Kitayama Maruta makes it not only perfect for use in Japanese-style architecture but it also blends harmoniously with modern-day architecture having various applications as the wood possesses a refined elegance that lends a feeling of nature to any interior space, bringing humans closer to nature. The variegated beauty and crispness of its appearance can readily attract anyone who sees it. The traditional handicrafts of Kyoto that allow you to sense this 600-year history of Kitayama Maruta have been designated as “Kyoto-fu Traditional Handicrafts” (Kyoto Prefecture) and “Kyoto-shi Traditional HandicraftsManufactured Products” (Kyoto City). Both “Kitayama Maruta” and “Kitayama Sugi” have acquired regional organization trademarks such that the product quality can be further improved and the brand image of this wonderful wood can be promoted even more.

Detailed Description of Kitayama Maruta



With delicate age rings from being cultivated to grow straight up, the unique and elegant color and luster of Kitayama Maruta is seen in the extremely velvety wood surface, revealed by peeling away the bark.

Kitayama Maruta Brand Label/Trademark Sticker

〈Kitayama Maruta Trtademark Sticker〉

〈Kitayama Maruta Brand Label 〉

Affixed to quality Kitayama Maruta products.

Valuation Components of Kitayama Maruta (Example)

	Naturally Striated (Raised)	Naturally Striated	Artificially Striated	Artificially Striated (Unique)	Polished Maruta
Age*	30 years or more	40 years or more	25 years or more	20 years or more	25 years or more
Diameter variation trunk-to-tip*	Approx. 1.5 cm	Approx. 1.5 cm	Approx. 1.5 cm	Approx. 2.1 cm	Approx. 1.5 cm
Straightness	Wood must be straight (difficult to use wood with distended middle section).				
Striation conditions	Good overall balance		Close to naturally striated	Close to naturally striated (Raised)	
Surface condition	Few faults such as dimples and leaf nodes. * Products of pruning and stripping must be of especially high quality.				
Surface luster	Essential color of the wood must be expressed without any irregular coloring.				
Log shape	The core must be in the center with the wood being nearly perfectly round with no curvature in any direction.				
Dryness	Must be evenly dried throughout.				
Other	Must be felled sometime from late autumn to early winter (stripping performed around middle of August).				

\* With a length of 3 m and diameter of 120.

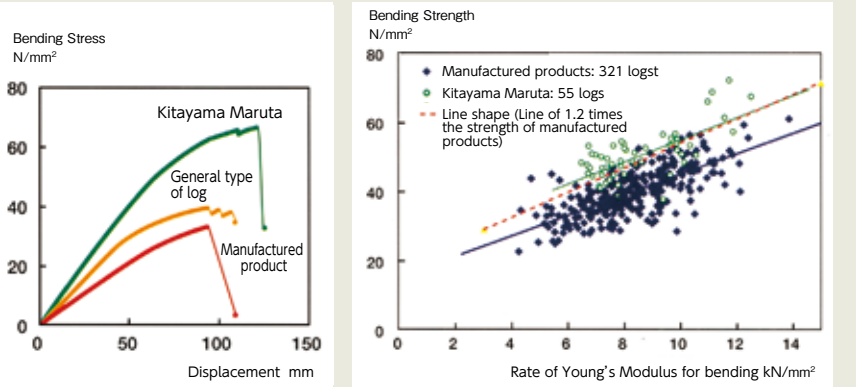
Kitayama Maruta not only has great beauty but also ample strength.

Given the enjoyment provided by the natural luster and pattern (striation) of its wood surface when used in tea houses and alcove posts, Kitayama Maruta is more known for its functionality as a design material (interior material) rather than being used as general wooden construction material. However, in recent years, its usefulness as construction material has been attracting greater interest.

In comparison with manufactured products and general types of logs, Kitayama Maruta provides excellent bending properties.

**Bending strength is 1.8 times that of manufactured products.**  
**Young’s Modulus for bending is 1.35 times that of manufactured products.**

- Bending stress may be observed to rise again after starting to drop.
  - Young’s Modulus for buckling/breaking stress and vertical compresion has been observed to be 1.2 times stronger than manufactured products.
- (According to strength test results of the Research Institute for Sustainable Humansphere at Kyoto University.





# Types of Kitayama Maruta



Kitayama Naturally Striated Maruta

This type has naturally formed knobby texture and wavelike unevenness (striations) in the wood surface such that it reflects various aspects of its growing conditions such as type, geological features and exposure to the sun. It is mainly used for alcove posts.



Kitayama Crepe-Striated Maruta

This is one type of naturally striated Maruta. This type is extremely scarce as although it has protruding striations of knobby/wavelike texture, this type is characterized by its striations forming long narrow slits.



Kitayama Artificially Striated Maruta

This natural striation that appears wavelike in the wood surface is created artificially in this product. Two to three years before being felled, small chopstick-shaped pieces of wood are wrapped around the trunk to create striations. This type is generally used for alcove posts.



Kitayama Rafters

This Kitayama Maruta is used as rafters. Characterized by its plainness, this type has almost no variation from trunk-to-tip. Although it has been used for tearooms and tea houses, recently it has also been used for handrails, louvers and similar locations.



Kitayama Menkawabashira

(Wood with four planed sides but retaining natural texture) This is fabricated from polished Maruta using an adze or similar tools to leave the wood surface of the Maruta and draw out the beauty of the wood grain.



Polished Kitayama Maruta

This is a basic Kitayama Maruta product. It is characterized by a finely striated wood surface that is smooth and lustrous, while having almost no variation from trunk-to-tip and being straight with a rounded shape.



Rakuhoku

This product provides new usefulness for Kitayama Maruta as it has been developed for use as wood paneling and wallboard. Possessing the beauty of both the wood surface and wood grain, this is used in a wide range of applications from public facilities to stores and houses.



Tokonoma (alcove) of the Kyoto Kitayama-Sugi-no-Sato Center  
The posts can be changed.



Sun drying of Kitayama Maruta

## Honjikomi

Some 60% of the branches are pruned in the winter before felling to suppress growth and thicken the growth rings (pruning). In the following summer, the cedar roots are cut and the bark is stripped while the tree is left standing in the mountain, and then the growing tree is left to dry (stripping). This process creates Maruta that have a lustrous and resistant surface, with an exquisite color tone, and that are resistant to cracking.



Examples of use

Original spaces can be created using the naturally soft feeling of Kitayama Maruta.



Living room using polished Kitayama Maruta

\* Provided by Takeuchi Komuten Co., Ltd.

Example of polished Kitayama Maruta used for mullion post

\* Provided by Takeuchi Komuten Co., Ltd.



Kitayama Sugi andon



Terrace using polished Kitayama Maruta and Kitayama rafters

\*Photo location: Kyoto Kitayama-Sugi-no-Sato Center



Stairs using Kitayama rafters

\* Provided by Takeuchi Komuten Co., Ltd.



Example of polished Kitayama Maruta used as construction material

\* Provided by Takeuchi Komuten Co., Ltd.



Kitayama Sugi andon



Renovated office using polished Kitayama Maruta

\*Collaboration with Rijinsha Corp.



Stairs using polished Kitayama Maruta

\*Provided by Takemura Zaimokuten Co., Ltd.



Wall design concept using polished Kitayama Maruta

\*Collaboration with Rijinsha Corp.



Kyoto-style Lamp Cove

\*Provided by Yamasho Co., Ltd.



Renovated office using polished Kitayama Maruta

\*Collaboration with Rijinsha Corp.



Lighting design concept using Kitayama rafters

\*Photo location: Kyoto Kitayama-Sugi-no-Sato Center



Example of Rakuhoku use

\*Photo location: Kyoto Kitayama-Sugi-no-Sato Center



Kitayama Sugi andon (lamp stand)



# Welcome to Kitayama-Sugi-no-Sato!



## Facility Features

- This center utilizes a lavish amount of Kitayama Maruta and other woods of Kyoto origin for construction and interior materials, allowing visitors to not only see the special characteristics and examples of use of Kitayama Maruta but also provides the chance to actually experience the superior quality of this wood.
- The alcove posts used in the ryurei-shiki (chair-style tea ceremony) tokonoma (alcove where art or flowers are displayed) can be changed to match the seasons or personal taste. Posts can be chosen from artificially and naturally striated Kitayama, Kitayama polished logs or Japanese red pine.



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\* Photo of example of use on the cover: Provided by Takeuchi Komuten Co., Ltd.