

# Windhorse Farm

Windhorse Farm, on the LaHave River at Wentzell's Lake, is a fully integrated forestry, sawmill and wood products manufacturing business—small scale, community supporting and committed to provide excellent personalized service to our customers. Our specialty is tonewood, especially Red Spruce tops.

Our woodlands and milling operations hold the two highest environmental forest certifications in the world (Nagaya Forest Restoration and The Forest Stewardship Council).



Come walk in our heritage forest, certified by Nagaya and SmartWood to meet the standards of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) for responsible forestry.

Guided tours by appointment. Self-guided tours anytime.



Visit Windhorse Farm and see for yourself the care we take for product quality and environmental integrity.

## Directions to Windhorse Farm:

From Bridgewater, go north on Highway 10 (towards New Germany) for 10 km, then turn left on Wentzell Road. Go 1 km and over an iron bridge. Immediately after the bridge, turn right on Sarty Road. Windhorse Farm is the first place on the left (#132).

From Halifax, go west on Hwy 103 to exit 12. Turn right on Highway 10 and follow the directions above.

132 Sarty Road, RR 2  
New Germany, NS BOR 1E0  
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# WINDHORSE Tonewood



*"Beautiful Music from Healthy Forests"*



We specialize in Red Spruce tops for your finest guitars. We also sell hemlock and aspen tops as well as unique hardwood sides and backs.



Your purchase of Windhorse Tonewood will support ecologically and socially responsible forestry in the Acadian Forest.

Our forest, and therefore your tonewood, is certified sustainable by the international accreditation body, the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). This is your guarantee that the guitar top you purchase has not resulted in the destruction of natural forests.

It's Your Choice.

WINDHORSE FARM 





*Tonewood Pricelist:*

* Flat Tops	Red Spruce	Hemlock	Great Tooth Aspen
Classical	\$70-200	\$50-90	\$30-60
Common- (ooo-om)	\$70-200	\$50-90	\$30-60
Dreadnaught / steel string	\$100-250	\$60-110	\$40-80
Jumbo	\$100-250	\$60-110	\$40-80
Mandolin	\$30-60	\$20-40	\$15-30

\* Arched tops, 3/4", are 70% more, for equivalent grades.

Because of the ambiguity in published grades, we prefer to email photos before mailing any tops.

**Windhorse is a place and a path of celebration:**

honouring 168 years of careful management through demonstrations of enrichment forestry, low-tech organic agriculture, renewable energy, and small rural community development.

*About Red Spruce  
(aka Adirondack Spruce)*

Red Spruce (Adirondack Spruce) is well known for its superior tonal qualities. While it is usually not as even in colour or fine in grain as Sitka or Engelmann, this is more than compensated for by the stiffness of the top and richness of the sound.

Red Spruce of sufficient size and quality to yield guitar tops is very rare. It is found only in forest areas in which the natural forest values have been protected for hundreds of years.

*Eastern Hemlock*

These are stiff tops with very good tonal qualities and visual richness. Eastern Hemlock has not been used very much for guitars, but those makers who are using it are very impressed with the look and sound.

**Notice to makers of classical guitars:** You have to try this!

*Great Tooth Aspen*

A few of these trees (*Populus grandidentata*) grow large enough to offer quartersawn guitar tops. The rich tone emanating from Great Tooth tops is a pleasant surprise. Definitely worth a try.

*Preparation of Windhorse  
Tonewood*

We take the utmost care in selecting potential tonewood quality trees for harvest. The logs are then quarter sawn using a portable band saw mill modified specifically for this purpose. The 2-inch slabs with one live edge are then stickered for drying, open to the air but protected from the sun. After 6-12 months of air drying to 14-20% moisture, the slabs are kiln dried in a low temperature dehumidification kiln to approximately 10% moisture.

After removal from the kiln, the slabs are coarsely graded and cut into appropriate lengths. Each resulting block is then split twice to make 2 book-matched blanks. After splitting, the blanks go to the thickness sander where they get sanded on the outside of the "book" (this side will be hidden on the inside on of the guitar) until both pieces are the same size and completely smooth. Then the set is flipped and sanded lightly on the inside (the sides that will show on the instrument top). Then the book-matched top goes to the grading room where the optimal pattern is drawn on the top. Next is the final grading, pricing and sorting.

When you order tops, we pick out what best fits your needs and ship it to you. If you wish, we can email photos of the tops we have selected so you can get a look before making your final decision.

If you have questions about how we do things, or suggestions about possible improvements, we welcome your call (Jim at 902 543 6955) or email ([jim@windhorsefarm.org](mailto:jim@windhorsefarm.org)).