



GARDEN FURNITURE SCORECARD 2009



Tropical forests are rapidly disappearing around the globe. 25 million acres of tropical forests disappeared in Asia, Africa and Latin America *annually* from 2000 to 2005. Wildlife dependent on this ecosystem are being pushed to extinction as the habitat is fragmented and lost. Human communities are displaced as well when the resources they subsist on are no longer available. Ongoing deforestation of tropical forests contributes an estimated one quarter of global greenhouse gas emissions, and sacrifices their critical role in carbon sequestration.

One major cause of tropical deforestation is the demand for tropical timber used in manufacturing outdoor furniture. Wood used in garden furniture for the U.S. marketplace typically comes from a variety of regions around the globe. Some retailers sell products containing wood from temperate forests that are under the watchful eye of various forest management schemes, however, the *vast majority* of garden furniture products available in U.S. stores are made from tropical hardwoods. These species are prized for their durability and good looks but problems of illegal logging and destructive forest management practices continue to harm many endangered tropical forests. Thus the focus of this scorecard is to evaluate those garden furniture products whose wood originates from tropical forest areas.

As major consumers of outdoor furniture made from tropical wood the U.S. is the world's largest import market – Americans have an opportunity and responsibility to influence the garden furniture choices available in the stores where we shop. As responsible consumers we can encourage and patronize those stores who source wood products that come from well-managed tropical forests.

Unfortunately the marketplace is full of product claims about being “eco-friendly,” “green,” or “sustainably harvested,” but few of these products have been rigorously audited to verify such claims. That is why NWF supports the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification system, which offers the most rigorous system for distinguishing wood products in the market. FSC certified wood comes from forest areas that have sustainable management systems in place that protect water, soil and wildlife habitat, as well as community and indigenous peoples' interests. When the FSC logo is placed on a product it ensures that claims about responsible stewardship are accurate.

In this third annual version of the scorecard, we contacted some of the largest U.S. retailers of these products and asked them to share information about their tropical wooden garden furniture product lines. Where did the wood in the products come from? Were their products FSC-certified or moving toward FSC certification? We received information from written communications, phone calls and several retail store visits. We have made every effort to verify each response.



Photo courtesy of The Home Depot

Major Retailers That Carry A Wide Selection of FSC-certified Garden Furniture:

Cost Plus World Market ★★★★★
Costco.com ★★★★★
Crate & Barrel ★★★★★
Frontgate ★★
The Home Depot ★★★★★
Ikea ★
JC Penney ★
Target ★★★

LL Bean ★★
Lowe's ★★★★★
Pier 1 Imports ★★★
Pottery Barn ★★★★★
Restoration Hardware ★★
Room & Board ★
Sam's Club ★★★
Wal-Mart ★★★

Bed Bath & Beyond – No Response
BJ's Wholesale – No Response
The Christmas Tree Shops – No Response
Homegardenandpatio.com – No Response
Lands' End – No Response
Menards – No Response
Patio.com – No Response
Smith & Hawken – No Response
Sears – No Response
Kmart – No Response

Key:

- ★ – Company responded to NWF survey
- ★★ – Company has limited offerings (up to 35%) of FSC-certified wooden outdoor furniture or products sourced from forests working toward FSC-certification.
- ★★★ – Company has a moderate range of offerings (36% to 70%) of FSC-certified wooden outdoor furniture or products sourced from forests working toward FSC-certification.
- ★★★★ – Company has substantial offerings (71% to 99%) of FSC-certified wooden outdoor furniture or products sourced from forests working toward FSC-certification.
- ★★★★★ – Company carries 100% FSC-certified wooden outdoor furniture or products sourced from forests working toward FSC-certification.

“Forests working toward FSC-certification” are those involved in a third-party verifiable program such as Tropical Forest Trust, World Wildlife Fund's Global Forest & Trade Network, and Rainforest Alliance's SmartSteps program.

Ask for the **FSC** logo when you purchase garden furniture and wood products.





Photo by John Formandy

GARDEN FURNITURE SCORECARD

The U.S. is the world's largest wood products consumer. Our garden furniture and wood product purchases impact wildlife around the globe and in our backyards. Support a vibrant future for wildlife and reward responsible forest management by shopping for FSC-certified products.

FSC-certified garden furniture available from the retailers involved in our scorecard includes:

Cost Plus World Market ★★★★★

FSC-certified: Baja Collection (4 pieces); Pagoda Collection (7 pieces); Paris Garden Bench; Amalfi Pool Lounger; Outdoor Tray Table.

Moving toward FSC-certified: Kona Collection (11 pieces); Bali Club Chair; Mika Collection (2 pieces); St. Lucia Collection (2 pieces); 5 Position Chair; Adirondack Collection (5 pieces); Lattice Back Garden Bench; Curved Arm Bench; Tribeca Collection (4 pieces); Siesta Foldable Pool Lounger; Cancun Party Center; Catalina Collection (8 pieces).

Costco.com ★★★★★

FSC-certified: Roble Wood Collection (10 pieces); Vifah Premium Hardwood Dining Set; Large Wood Hammock Bed; English Benches (2 pieces); Bistro Table & Chairs; Vifah Airblade Dining Collection (2 pieces); Vifah Round Dining Set.

Crate & Barrel ★★★★★

FSC-certified: Arbor Collection (13 pieces); Umbrellas for Trovata Collection (2 pieces).

Moving toward FSC-certified: Trovata/Carlisle Collection (15 pieces).

Frontgate ★★

FSC-certified: Coastal Living Summerhouse Collection (13 pieces); 25% of the Gloster teak furniture products are manufactured with FSC-certified wood, but the products are not labeled with FSC.

The Home Depot ★★★★★

FSC-certified: Camrose Collection (14 pieces); Amazon Teak Collection (16 pieces); Nature's Retreat Collection (10 pieces); Plantation Patterns Market Umbrella; Hampton Bay Eucalyptus Dining Set (2 pieces).

Ikea ★

Company responded and is in the process of establishing a wood sourcing program that will be working toward FSC certification.

JC Penney ★

Company responded.

LL Bean ★★

FSC-certified: Patio Umbrella.

Lowe's ★★★★★

FSC-certified: Coconut Grove Collection (4 pieces); Teak Adirondack Collection (2 pieces); 9 Ft. Sunbrella Umbrella; 9 Ft. Round Umbrella; Rosewood Finish Wood Rocker; Wood/Wicker Rocker; Salem Bench; Veranda Bench; Texas Bench; Children's Jungle Animal Bench.

Pier 1 Imports ★★

Moving toward FSC-certified: The Pier Collection (5 pieces).

Transitioning to FSC-certified wood supplies from tropical forests is not a simple overnight effort. Our scorecard suggests a wide variety of actions and commitment by retailers to carrying FSC-certified garden furniture in their stores, catalogs and on-line. However, we are happy to report that this year's scorecard includes more retailer participants than in the past, and, in general, shows an *increased awareness* on the part of the retailers about where their tropical wood products are being sourced from. Retailers now expect that they will be asked about the sources of their tropical wood, and are generally ready to provide answers. NWF, through its Garden Furniture Scorecard, is committed to tracking the progress of these and other major retailers of wooden outdoor furniture. For more information please visit: <http://www.nwf.org/forests/pdfs/gardenfurniture.pdf>. To locate retailers of various types of FSC-certified wood products, including building materials, paper and furniture, please visit: <http://www.fscus.org/productsearch/retailers/>

Pottery Barn ★★★★★

FSC-certified: Chesapeake Collection (33 pieces); San Marino Collection (8 pieces); Umbrellas (5 pieces); Saratoga Sling Chair; PB Kids Adirondack Collection (2 pieces); PB Kids Adult Sized Adirondack Chair; PB Kids Mini Outdoor Umbrella; PB Kids Surf Adirondack Chair; PB Kids Chesapeake Collection (3 pieces).

Restoration Hardware ★★

FSC-certified: Nantucket Collection (11 pieces); eucalyptus patio umbrellas (3 pieces).

Room & Board ★

Company responded.

Sam's Club ★★

FSC-certified: Kids Adirondack Chair; Adult Adirondack Chair.

Target ★★

FSC-certified: Marlton 2009 Collection (16 pieces); Target Home folding collection (4 pieces); Smith & Hawken Adirondack Collection (2 pieces); Meraseine Collection (15 pieces); Target Home Storage Benches & Stools (4 pieces); Mallorca Collection (2 pieces); Nantucket Adirondack Collection (10 pieces); Igloo Wood Bench Cooler; Jack and Jill Chair; Eucalyptus Adirondack Chair with Ottoman; Smith & Hawken Cranbrook Collection (3 pieces); Melia Collection (5 pieces); Portage Point Collection (6 pieces); Sean Conway Patio Umbrella 9'; Director's Chair Set of 2; Director's Chair Bistro Collection (2 pieces); Adirondack Patio Collection in various colors (3 pieces); Gibranta Collection (6 pieces); Relaxer Chair and Ottoman Set (2 pieces); 5 Position Chair, Deck Chair and Side Table Set (3 pieces); Key West 3-piece Bar Set; Talladega 9-piece Dining Set; Pierce 9-piece Dining Set; Boca 9-piece Dining Set.

Wal-Mart ★★

FSC-certified: Solid Wood Porch Rocker and End Table; Hardwood Outdoor Storage Bench; Wooden Tree Hugger Bench; Mikonos Collection (3 pieces); Milano Collection (13 pieces); Ipanema Stacking Deck Chair; Copacabana Collection (2 pieces); Portoreal Collection (2 pieces); Eucalyptus Pub Stool; Eucalyptus Garopaba Deckchair; Eucalyptus Butcher Block; Eucalyptus Stackable Chair; Eucalyptus Bistro Folding Table; Milan Outdoor Lounger; Delahey Collection (13 pieces); Cambridge Collection (4 pieces); Sheraton Collection (4 pieces); Lido Collection (2 pieces); Grampian Single Seat Bench; Hardwood Backless Bench; Hardwood 4 Piece Chicago Dining Set; Hardwood Mesh Chaise Lounger; Hardwood 7 piece Holiday Textile Dining Set; Hardwood 7-piece Peaceful Square Dining Set; Hardwood 4-piece Geneva Chat Set; Hardwood Double Lounger; Hardwood Shaded Bench; Hardwood 4-piece Chat Set; Hardwood Bench with Back; Hardwood 3-piece Happy Bar Set; Hardwood 3-piece Mild Bench Dining Set; Franklin Rocking Chair; Metro Collection (5 pieces).

Choosing FSC-certified garden furniture ensures that forests are managed to protect water, soil, and wildlife habitat in addition to providing wood products.



Photo: Fox-Wilmar Productions



To learn more about the scorecard visit www.nwf.org/forests or contact Eric Palola at palola@nwf.org or (802) 229-0650 x305.

Inspiring Americans to protect wildlife for our children's future.