

TIMBER SPECIES

Keruing – *Dipterocarpus*

Wood Appearance

Colour – Heartwood varies between species but is most commonly red-brown. Variations include deep-pink, orange-pink and purple-red. Sapwood is usually lighter in shade and may have yellow or greyish tinges. Wood darkens with age.

Grain – Grain is generally straight but may be slightly interlocked resulting in some stripe figure on the radial surface. Texture varies between species and area of origin from fine to coarse but even.

Wood Properties

Density – 790 kg/m³

Durability – Class 4 – Suitable for use in continuously dry situations under cover, well ventilated, clear of the ground and fully protected from the weather and other dampness

Hardness – Moderately Hard (rated 3 on a 6 class scale) in relation to indentation and ease of working with hand tools

Identification Features

Sapwood – Grey-brown, distinct from heartwood

Heartwood – Red brown to dark brown

Texture – Moderately coarse, uniform, straight grain

Wood Structure

Vessels – Predominately solitary, large, visible to the naked eye, uniform diffuse distribution. Heavily tylosed in some species, but not in others.

Parenchyma – Apotracheal and paratracheal; apotracheal as scattered or confluent patches containing vertical resin canals; paratracheal very sparse as borders to vessels, often indistinct

Rays – Of two distinct sizes: medium and small. Medium size visible to the naked eye, quite prominent on radial surfaces

Other Features

Burning Splinter Test – The wood burns to an ash

Intercellular Canals - Common and prominent, variable in size, arrangement diffuse or in short tangential lines with 2-7 canals in a series.

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