

White Beech – *Gmelina fasciculiflora*

Wood Appearance

Colour – The heartwood ranges from pale straw to light grey-brown. There is no noticeable colour difference between sapwood and heartwood.

Grain – A firm, close grained slightly greasy wood. At times it has interlocking grain. There is no pronounced figure or sheen except for a glistening effect on dressed surfaces due to tyloses in the vessel veins.

Wood Properties

Density – 515-545 kg/m³

Durability – Class 1 – Highly resistant in decay in-ground contact or in persistently damp or badly ventilated situations.

Hardness – Soft (rated 5 on 6 class scale) in relation to indentation and ease of working with hand tools.

Identification Features

Sapwood – Not distinctly different in colour from heartwood.

Heartwood – Pale straw to light grey-brown

Texture – Medium to coarse, grain often interlocked.

Wood Structure

Growth rings – Absent

Vessels – Medium in size, barely visible without a lens; many solitary but some in short radial multiples or groups of 2 or 3. Vessel lines in distinct. Tyloses common; whitish deposits also common in vessels and sometimes in rays; sometimes visible without a lens on longitudinal surfaces.

Rays – Fine

Parenchyma – Not visible under a lens

Other Features

Burning Splinter Test – Gives a full, greyish-white to buff coloured ash. Burns with a crackling noise.

Odour - Freshly cut surfaces have a faint sour odour

Cutting – A sharp knife cuts this species across the grain with distinct ease, leaving a very smooth surface with a soapy feel.

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