

White Cheesewood – *Alstonia scholaris*

Wood Appearance

Colour – The heartwood is white to cream with a very wide sapwood zone which is visually indistinct from the heartwood

Grain – Medium to coarse in texture; straight grained

Wood Properties

Density – 400 kg/m³

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

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

Identification Features

Sapwood – Indistinguishable in colour from heartwood

Heartwood – Cream to white in colour

Texture – Medium textured, uniform

Wood Structure

Vessels – Medium to large in size, elliptical in shape, visible without a lens. Mostly solitary but numerous radial pairs and multiples of three or more may occur; occasionally in clusters. Vessel lines conspicuous on longitudinal surfaces.

Parenchyma – Visible as numerous fine, wavy apotracheal rows spaced about two per mm.

Rays – Fine to medium, readily visible with a lens

Other Features

Burning Splinter Test – A match size splinter burns to a thin partial ash

Latex Canals – May contain elongated radial pockets or latex canals as a characteristic.

NOTE: This timber is very similar to the imported species Jelutong, from which it can be separated by the latter's more closely packed parenchyma and radial canals within the rays.

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