

Douglas Fir – *Pseudotsuga menziesii*

Wood Appearance

Colour – The heartwood ranges from yellowish to deep red. Sometimes the sapwood is distinctly paler, varying in width from 50mm in mature trees to 75mm in faster grown plantation stems.

Grain – Generally straight. A pronounced difference in colour between earlywood and latewood results in very distinct figure when back sawn.

Wood Properties

Density – 560 kg/m³

Durability – Class 4 – Suitable for use in continuously dry situations under cover, well ventilated and fully protected from the weather and other dampness. It may also be suitable for some weather exposed non structural applications, provided it is adequately sealed against moisture penetration.

Hardness – Firm (rated 4 on a 6 class scale) in relation to indentation and ease of working with hand tools

Identification Features

Sapwood – Sometimes indistinguishable from heartwood, but usually paler in colour

Heartwood – Variable; yellowish to orange red or deep red

Texture – Fine with prominent growth rings; grain normally straight except where knots are present

Wood Structure

Growth Rings – Very distinct; transition from early wood to latewood very abrupt. Latewood ranging from very narrow to very wide.

Vessels – Absent

Resin Canals – Uncommon but occurring both in longitudinal and radial directions and visible only with a lens

Parenchyma – None visible

Rays – Fine, not visible without a lens

Other Features

Odour – Douglas fir has a distinct odour

MASTER WOODTURNING
37 LANCASTER STREET
INGLEBURN NSW 2565

P: 02 9829 5000
F: 02 9829 5100
E: Sales@masterwoodturning.com.au

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