

Fiji Mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*)



Fiji Mahogany, is one of the most precious species and rightfully so. Fiji Mahogany has a rich aesthetically pleasing reddish brown color and a very beautiful tight grain. Fiji Mahogany is very popular because of its rarity, integrity and capability to produce a very dark, warm tone.

Fiji Mahogany has a bendy, thick and rough grain, and is relatively free of voids and pockets. It has a reddish brown color which darkens over time, and displays a beautiful reddish sheen when polished.

Highly durable the Fiji Mahogany works great as a decorative veneer, interior trim or carpentry wood. Considered by many to be the world's premier wood for fine cabinetry and fine furniture, mahogany is becoming increasingly scarce as loggers go deeper and deeper into the natural forest to find these precious trees.

This wood will entice any homeowner's zeal with a deep variety of colors. Fiji Mahogany will create a harmonious and comfortable appeal in any room or project.

Scientific Name: *Swietenia macrophylla*

Family: Meliaceae

Distribution: Plantations were established in Fiji by the British of *Swietenia Macrophylla* seeds from Belize.

The Tree: Sometimes 150 feet in height and 6 feet and more in diameter above the heavy buttresses; boles are clear from 60 to 80 feet.

General Description: Heartwood reddish, pinkish, salmon colored, or yellowish when fresh; deepening with age to deep rich red or brown; distinct from the yellowish or whitish sapwood. Luster high and golden; texture rather fine to coarse; grain straight to roey, wavy, or curly, often with an attractive figure; odor and taste not distinctive.

Weight: Basic specific gravity (ovendry weight/ green volume) 0.40 to 0.68; air-dry density 30 to 52 pef.

Sizes: 4/4 5/4 6/4 8/4 10/4 12/4 16/4

Grades: FAS1F, 1 Com & Btr

Mechanical Properties: (First two sets of data based on the 2 inch standard, the third on the 2 centimeter standard.)

Moisture Content (%)	Bending Strength (Psi)	Modulus of Elasticity (1,000 Psi)	Maximum Crushing Strength (Psi)
Green (73)	8,960	1,280	4,340
12 %	11,590	1,420	6,470
Green (73)	8,960	1,340	4,340
12%	11,460	1,500	6,780
12% (42)	12,000	1,270	6,400

Janka Hardness: 740 pounds for green material and 800 pounds for dry. Forest Products Laboratory toughness average for green and dry material 82 inches per pound (5/8 inch specimen).

Working Properties: Very easy to work with hand and machine tools, torn and chipped grain is common with figured material. Easy to finish and takes an excellent polish; Slices and rotary cuts into fine veneer.

Durability: Generally heartwood rates as durable in resistance to a brown-rot fungus and a white-rot fungus. Moderately resistant to dry-wood termites and little resistance attack by marine borers.

Uses: Fine furniture and cabinet making, interior trim, paneling, fancy veneers, musical instruments, boat building, pattern making, turnery, and carving.

FIJI MAHOGANY

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