

EVERWOOD DECKING PARTNERS, LTD

Importers, Wholesalers, Retailers of Fine Lumber Products

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IPÊ General Characteristics

Species *Tabebuia spp. (Lapacho Group)*
Ipê, Bethabara, Lapacho

Family: Bignoniaceae

Other Common Names: Amapa (Mexico), Cortez (Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica), Guayacan (Panama), Guayacan polvillo (Columbia), Flor Amarillo (Venezuela), Greenhart (Surinam), Madera negra (Ecuador), Tahuari (Peru), IN (Brazil), Lapacho negro (Paraguay, Argentina).

Distribution: Throughout continental tropical America and some of the Lesser Antilles. The Tree grows on a variety of sites, from ridge tops to riverbanks and marsh forests.

The Tree May grow to 140 to 150 ft in height with trunk diameter of 6 ft. Frequently to heights of 100 ft and diameters of 2 to 3 ft. Boles are clear to 60 ft and more, with or without buttresses.

The Wood **General Characteristics:** Heartwood olive brown to blackish, often with lighter or darker striping, often covered with a yellow powder: sharply demarcated from the whitish or yellowish sapwood. Texture fine to medium; luster low to medium; grain straight to very irregular; rather oily looking; without distinctive odor or taste.

Weight: Basic specific gravity (oven dry weight/green volume) 0.85 to 0.97; air-dry density 66 to 75 pcf.

Mechanical Properties: (First and third sets of data based on the 2-in. standard, the second on the 1-in. standard.)

Moisture Content (psi)	Bending Strength (psi)	Modulus of Elasticity (1,000 psi)	Maximum Crushing Strength (psi)
Green (73%)	22,560	2,920	10,350
12%	25,360	3,140	13,010
12% (24)	25,200	3,010	14,000
12% (44)	28,000	3,350	--

Janka side hardness 3,060 lb for green material and 3,680 lb at 12% moisture contents. Forest Products Laboratory toughness average for green and dry material is 404 in.-lb (5/8-in. Specimen).

Drying and Shrinkage: Generally reported to air-dry with only slight checking and warping. Kiln schedule T3-C1 is suggested for 4/4 stock. Shrinkage green to oven dry: radial 6.6%; tangential 8.0%; volumetric 13.2%. Movement after manufacture is rated as small.

Working Properties: Moderately difficult to work especially with hand tools; has a blunting Effect on cutting edges, finishes smoothly except where grain is very roey. The fine yellow Dust produced in most operations may cause dermatitis in some workers.

Durability: Heartwood is very resistant to attack by decay fungi and termites; not resistant to Marine borers. T. guayacan, however, is reported to have good resistance in Panama waters.

Preservations: The wood is reported to be extremely resistant to preservation treatments.

Uses: Railroads crossties, heavy construction, tool handles, turnery, industrial flooring, textile Mill items, decorative veneers.