

Ipe

Tabebuia Serratifolia

Family

Bignoniaceae

Description

Sapwood relatively thick, yellowish-white and sharply differentiated. Heartwood greyish when freshly cut, darkening to greyish-green or brownish-olive on exposure; sometimes slightly streaked. Texture fine and uneven. Grain rarely straight, usually interlocked to very irregular. Lustre medium. Odour and taste not distinct. Vessels of heartwood contain a yellow-green deposit (Lapachol). Bark contains around 5% of tannin. Bole straight, cylindrical, slightly buttressed and unbranched, 18 to 21 mt. (60-70 feet) in length. Found mainly in mixed deciduous and evergreen forests, but may gregariously occur on steep rocky hillsides or in smaller numbers in lowland forests. Often planted as an avenue tree.

Characteristics

Timber is fairly easy to season, drying rapidly with very little warping and checking. Moderately difficult to work with machine tools. High resistance to cutting, resulting in severe blunting effect on edges. Finishes very smoothly. Difficult to nail; pre-boring necessary to avoid splitting. Turns well. Not resistant to termite and marine borer attack. Sapwood permeable, heartwood extremely resistant to impregnation. Very durable in non-teredo waters. Very good dimensional stability in use and highly resistant to shock. Makes good firewood. Often used in the round. Dust may cause irritation of skin in some workers.

Uses

Structural timber heavy, Flooring heavy, Mine timber, Ship and boat building, Vehicle body, Handles, Ladders, Joinery, Sleepers, Furniture, Cabinet work, Interior trim, Poles, Piles, Turnery.

Density

1020 – 1140 Kg/m³

Green

1250 – 1450 Kg/m³

Strength group

S1 – SD1

Moisture Condition	Modulus of rupture		Modulus of elasticity x 10		Maximum crushing strength		Maximum shear strength	
	MPA	LBF/in	MPA	LBF/in	MPA	LBF/in	MPA	LBF/in
Green	103.0	15000	16.3	2360	51.7	7500	13.1	1900
12%	158.0	23000	18.7	2720	81.3	11800	18.7	2720

Shrinkage

Tangential Green to 12% m.c.*	Radial Green to 12% m.c.*
>8.1	>4.1

*Moisture content

Durability

(Class 1, durable) Approximate life in contact with the ground (years) , more than 25 , for conditions significantly different from that represented by ground contact , the life expectancies of the specie would obviously be longer than that indicated in this classification.

Please Note: Actual colours of wood may vary from displayed images.