

Hardwoods: Kwila



Trade Name:	Kwila
Botanical Species:	Intsia spp.
Other Names:	Merbau (Malaysia), Vesi (Fiji)
Country of Origin:	Papua New Guinea
Air Dry Density:	870kgs/m ³
Durability:	Very Durable
Colour:	Dark
Strength:	9+ (on a scale of 1 – 10)



Seasoning:

- The timber dries slowly without appreciable degrade but if submitted to rapid drying conditions, there is a definite tendency for end splitting and surface checking to occur.
- It has a low shrinkage factor.

Characteristics:

- The heart wood is yellow-brown, brown or dark red, red-brown, turning to a dark red-brown with age.
- The wood is hard and heavy, the texture is moderately coarse but even and the grain may be straight or interlocked and is often wavy.
- Sulphur-yellow and dark coloured deposits are characteristic of the species and can be commonly seen in the vessel cavities.

Working Qualities:

- Saws well, however with the fairly high incidence of gum, saws tend to become clogged.
- It planes well but there is a tendency for the grain to tear out in quarter-sawn material.
- A reduction in the cutting angle to 20° is beneficial.
- The wood tends to split when nailing but holds screws well and can be stained and polished reasonably well, however patches of oil that exude may affect the finish.
- The yellow deposits are soluble in water and the dye produced does stain.
- If early attention is given to any staining it can generally be removed by scrubbing with milk or lactic acid.

Uses:

- A very good heavy construction timber.
- Ideally suited for decking and outdoor furniture.
- It is also used in internal joinery and flooring, striking tool handles and carving.

Product Attributes:

- Yellow brown timber which will turn red brown with age.
- Long lengths available.
- A very strong, durable, stable timber.
- Fixed widths available.
- Veneers available.

Product Limitations

- Does leach when in contact with water.
- Care needed when machining.
- Care needed when staining, polishing and gluing due to natural resins.