

Hardwoods: Purpleheart



Trade Name:	Purpleheart
Botanical Species:	Peltogyne species
Other Names:	Amaranth, Violet Wood (USA), Koroboreli, Saka, Sakavalli (Guyana), Purpleheart (Surinam), Pau Roxo, Nazareno, Morado (Venezuela), Tananeo (Columbia).
Country of Origin:	Central America and tropical South America.
Air Dry Density:	Weight varies from 800 -1000kg/m ³ (60-63lb/ft ³) averaging 860kg/m ³ (54lb/ft ³). Specific gravity .86
Durability:	Very Durable
Colour:	Dark
Strength:	Good, though not easy to bend.



Seasoning:

- Dries fairly rapidly with little degrade.
- But care is needed to dry out the centre of thick pieces.

Characteristics:

- The heartwood is a deep purple-violet colour when freshly cut, maturing to dark brown.
- The original colour is restored when re-cut.
- Straight grained, but often irregular, wavy and sometimes interlocked, producing a pleasing striped figure on quartered surfaces.
- Texture moderate to fine.

Working Qualities:

- It is rather difficult to work, with moderate to severe blunting effect on tools.
- It exudes gummy resin when heated by dull cutters and the material is best run slowly through machines

equipped with high speed steel knives.

- The wood turns well and smoothly.
- Pre-bore for nailing, glues without difficulty and stains and wax polishes easily.
- Spirit finishes remove the purple colour.

Uses:

- Although expensive, it is used for heavy constructional work, bridge building, fresh water piling, dock work, cladding, house construction and vats.
- Excellent for flooring and very suitable for gymnasium equipment, shafts, tool handles, boat building, turnery, furniture and billiard tables.
- Also as decorative veneers for inlaying and marquetry work etc.
- Best colour from sawcut as steaming affects the soluble phonicoin content.

Product Attributes:

- Large sizes available.
- No bleeding of stain.