

• TIMBER SPECIES DATASHEET •

AZOBE

(Lophira Alata)



★ Wood Type	Hardwood
★ Durability	Class 1 -Very durable
★ Average Service Life	25+ years (without treatment)
★ Treatability	Moderately difficult
★ Moisture Movement	Low
★ Density (mean, Kg/m³)	950-1100
★ Texture	Moderately fine
★ Use(s)	Marine Construction, Heavy Structural Work, Piles, Decking
★ Colour(s)	Dark red to brown with fine to moderately fine grain pattern

Environmental

Azobe wood (*Lophira alata*) is not typically listed on the IUCN Red List, but responsible sourcing and certification are essential to ensure sustainable harvesting. Some *Lophira alata* species may face conservation concerns in certain regions.

The Tree

Azobe trees are large, reaching heights of up to 30-40 meters. They have straight, cylindrical trunks and produce simple, alternate leaves. Azobe trees are known for their valuable timber, which is highly regarded for its strength, durability, and distinctive dark red to brown color.

Drying

Azobe wood dries well, with minimal risk of defects when properly managed. It is important to control the drying process to prevent issues like warping or checking.

Working Qualities

Azobe wood is relatively easy to work with due to its straight grain and fine texture. It machines, cuts, and planes smoothly, making it popular among woodworkers. Azobe takes stains, finishes, and polishes well, showcasing its vibrant and lustrous appearance.

Distribution

Azobe wood is native to various parts of Africa, particularly in countries like Cameroon, Gabon, and Nigeria. It is valued for its high-quality timber, and different species are found in these regions.

The Timber

Azobe wood is famous for its distinctive dark red to brown color, often with a fine to moderately fine grain pattern. It has a moderately fine texture and typically features a straight to interlocked grain. The wood is moderately heavy and highly durable.

Strength

Azobe wood is appreciated for its exceptional strength and durability. It is a robust and stable wood that can withstand various stressors, making it suitable for high-end applications.