

• TIMBER SPECIES DATASHEET •

CUMARU

(*Dipteryx Odorata*)



★ Wood Type	Hardwood
★ Durability	Class 1 - Very durable
★ Average Service Life	25+ years
★ Treatability	Extremely difficult
★ Moisture Movement	Stable
★ Density (mean, Kg/m³)	1070
★ Texture	Fine
★ Use(s)	Flooring, Heavy structural, Decking
★ Colour(s)	Reddish brown

Environmental

Cumaru wood (*Dipteryx* spp.) is not listed on the IUCN Red List. However, *Dipteryx alata* and *D. charapilla*, related species, are listed as Vulnerable. It is essential to source Cumaru from well-managed and certified suppliers to promote sustainable harvesting practices.

Strength

Cumaru wood exhibits impressive strength properties. Green wood closely resembles the strength of greenheart, with superior performance in tension across the grain and side hardness. Air-dried wood is much stronger than green wood, with some reduction in cleavage resistance and tensile strength across the grain. In general, Cumaru wood is superior to white oak in most properties, except cleavage resistance.

Drying

Cumaru wood, considering its density, is relatively easy to dry. While it can surface check if dried rapidly, moderate to slow drying rates should reduce this tendency. Thicker sections are at risk from casehardening.

Working Qualities

Cumaru wood is challenging to work due to its hardness and toughness. However, with sharp tools, it can be sawn and bored cleanly. When interlocked grain is absent, it can be planed and finished to a smooth surface. It takes a high polish but has poor glue adhesion.

Distribution

Cumaru wood is naturally distributed throughout northern South America and Central America. It has also been cultivated in regions like Mexico and the West Indies, particularly in Jamaica. While it is primarily cultivated for its tonka beans, the wood is highly valued for its quality.

The Timber

Cumaru heartwood displays a reddish-brown or purplish-brown color when freshly cut. It turns to a variegated reddish and yellowish-brown after drying, and upon exposure to light, it assumes a uniform yellowish-brown or light brown color. The sapwood, distinct from the heartwood, is about 50mm wide and has a yellowish-brown color. Cumaru wood has a fine texture, often interlocked grain, and a waxy or oily feel. It is extremely hard and heavy.

The Tree

Cumaru trees are sizeable, unbuttressed trees, typically ranging from 24.0 meters to 36.0 meters in height, with a diameter of 0.5 meters to 0.75 meters. The boles are clean, cylindrical, and can be 18.0 meters to 24.0 meters long, making it an excellent timber source.



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