

• TIMBER SPECIES DATASHEET •

# MERBAU

(*Intsia bijuga*)



★ 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)	800-850
★ Texture	Moderately fine
★ Use(s)	Decking, Flooring, Outdoor Furniture, Boat Building, Joinery
★ Colour(s)	Dark orange to brown with a distinctive grain pattern

## Environmental

Merbau wood (*Intsia* spp.) is not typically listed on the IUCN Red List. However, responsible sourcing and certification are important to ensure sustainable harvesting. Some *Intsia* species may face conservation concerns in certain regions.

## The Tree

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

## Drying

Merbau 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

Merbau wood is relatively easy to work with due to its straight grain and moderately fine texture. It machines, cuts, and planes smoothly, making it popular among woodworkers. Merbau takes stains, finishes, and polishes well, allowing for various design possibilities.

## Distribution

Merbau wood is native to various parts of the world, primarily in Southeast Asia, including countries like Indonesia and Malaysia. It is highly valued for its high-quality timber, and different species are found in these regions.

## The Timber

Merbau wood is famous for its distinctive dark orange to brown color, often with a fine to moderately coarse 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

Merbau wood is appreciated for its exceptional strength and durability. It is a robust and stable wood that can endure heavy use, particularly in outdoor applications.