

• TIMBER SPECIES DATASHEET •

WENGE

(*Millettia Laurentii*)



★ 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)	800-950
★ Texture	Moderately fine
★ Use(s)	Fine Furniture, Cabinetry, Musical Instruments, Flooring
★ Colour(s)	Dark brown with a very fine and pronounced grain pattern

Environmental

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

The Tree

Wenge trees are medium to large, reaching heights of up to 20-30 meters. They have straight, cylindrical trunks and produce pinnate leaves. Wenge trees are known for their valuable timber, which is highly regarded for its strength, durability, and distinctive dark brown to black color.

Drying

Wenge 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

Wenge 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. Wenge takes stains, finishes, and polishes well, allowing for striking design possibilities.

Distribution

Wenge wood is native to various parts of Central and West Africa, including countries like the Democratic Republic of Congo, Cameroon, and Gabon. It is highly valued for its high-quality timber and is a significant export from the region.

The Timber

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

Strength

Wenge wood is appreciated for its exceptional strength and durability. It is a robust and stable wood that can endure heavy use, particularly in fine furniture and decorative applications.