



Eco-Smart, Inc. Earth-friendly Flooring

TEAK WOOD

Botanical Information

GUAPINOL

Name: Hymenea Courbaril L. (16 related species)

Common Names: Algarro, Copal, Jatoba, Cuapinol, Guapinol, Jatahy, Kawanar, Paquio, Rode Locus, West Indian Locust

The Tree: A large tree with a perfectly cylindrical and straight, columnar trunk that often measure far in excess of one meter with heights to 45m. Grows best in well drained sandy soil; does not grow well in wetlands. Limited success in plantations but available from managed forests in

Distribution: From southern Mexico, throughout Central America and the West Indies, to northern Brazil, Bolivia, and Peru; grows well in WNW Costa Rica.

Description: Sapwood is gray-white, the heartwood tends to a salmon-red to orange-brown color when fresh, becoming russet or reddish brown with dark streaks when seasoned. With its inherent beauty, rich coloring, and extreme hardness, this species is a very popular exotic species.

Mechanical Properties: Janka hardness 2,350 (81% harder than red oak, 78% harder than ash, 62% harder than hard maple). : Courbaril is rated as moderately difficult to air season. Although a heavier wood than hickory or white oak, its shrinkage values are lower than those of the latter species. The in-service movement (shrinkage) is less than that encountered in native U.S. species.

Durability: The strength properties of guapinol are quite high but very similar to those of shagbark hickory, a species of lower specific gravity. In decay resistance, it is rated as very durable to durable.

It is moderately difficult to work because of its high density, but it can be finished smoothly and it turns and glues well. It compares favorably with white oak in steam-bending behavior.

Uses: It is commercially useful for flooring, stair treads, parquet, architectural details, joinery and turnery, and decorative veneers. Additionally, it is used for general construction, railroad ties, wheels and cogs, dugouts, shipbuilding, crossties, posts, looms, and cartwheels. Indians made canoes from the smooth, hard, thick bark by stripping in one piece the bark of a large tree, sewing the ends together, waterproofing the seams with gum or resin, and inserting wooden crosspieces.

NOTE: ANY wood product, regardless of hardness or species, will wear over time; such wear is normal and does not detract from the character and feel of the floor.



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