



**Eco-Smart, Inc.**  
Earth-friendly Flooring

## TEAK WOOD

### Botanical Information

#### MORA

**Family:** Leguminosae

**Scientific Name:** Chloriphora Tinctoria

Other Common Names: Nato, Nato rojo (Colombia), Mora de Guayana (Venezuela), Morabukea, Mora (Guyana), Mora, Moraboekea (Surinam), Pracuuba (Brazil).

**Distribution:** *M. excelsa*: Widely distributed in the Guianas and less so in the Orinoco Delta of Venezuela; dominant on river levees and flood plains forming dense stands.

**The Tree:** Usually 100 to 120 ft high and 2 to 3 ft in diameter with clear boles 60 ft and more above very large buttresses that may extend 15 ft up the trunk. Trees of *M. excelsa* 160 to 200 ft high and 4 ft in diameter are reported.

**The Wood:** General characteristics: Heartwood yellowish red brown, reddish brown or dark red with paler streaks; sapwood 2 to 6 in. wide, distinct, yellowish to pale brown. Texture moderately fine to rather coarse, rather harsh to the feel; luster medium to high; grain is straight to commonly interlocked, very variable; astringent taste and a slightly sour odor.

**Mechanical Properties:** **Janka side hardness 2,300** at 12% MC (moisture content). Forest Products Laboratory toughness average for green and dry material is 228 in.-lb. (5/8-in. specimen).

**Drying and Shrinkage:** Drying reports are variable, generally rated moderately difficult to season; a slow rate of drying and careful stacking are suggested to keep warp and other degrade to a minimum. Boxed heart pieces tend to split. Kiln schedule T2-C2 is suggested for 4/4 stock and T2-C1 for 8/4. Shrinkage from green oven-dry radial 6.9%; tangential 9.8%; volumetric 18.8%.

**Working Properties:** The wood is moderately difficult to work but yields smooth surfaces in sawing, planing, turning, or boring unless interlocked grain is present that can cause "pick up" and chipped grain.

**Durability:** Results are variable; material from Surinam and Guyana is rated durable to very durable in resistance to brown-rot and white-rot fungi. Service life of 15 to 20 years in ground contact is reported. *M. gonggrijpii* is rated very resistant to dry-wood termites; *M. excelsa* considerably less so, not resistant to marine borers.

**Uses:** Industrial flooring, railroad crossties, shipbuilding, heavy construction, high quality charcoal wood.



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