Dark Red Meranti

*Shorea* spp.

**Family:** Dipterocarpaceae

**Other Common Names:** Red lauan, Tangile (Philippines), Dark red seraya, Obar suluk (Sabah), Saya (Thailand), Meranti ketuko (Indonesia), Nemesu (Malaya), Alan (Sarawak).

**Distribution:** Malaysia, Indonesia, and the Philippines.

**The Tree:** A large tree reaching a height of 200 ft and more with a straight cylindrical bole; trunk diameters 5 to 6 ft over moderately large and high buttresses.

**The Wood:**

**General Characteristics:** Heartwood dark brown, medium to deep red, sometimes with a purplish tinge, commonly with white dammar or resin streaks; sapwood pinkish, rather poorly defined. Texture rather coarse; grain interlocked, sometimes straight; luster low, without characteristic odor or taste.

**Weight:** Basic specific gravity (ovendry weight/green volume) averages about 0.55; air-dry density 42 pcf. In Sabah, this grouping of *Shorea* requires an air-dry weight over 40 pcf.

Janka side hardness 780 to 825 lb air dry. Forest Products Laboratory toughness 292 in.-lb green (2-cm specimen).

**Drying and Shrinkage:** Moderately slow drying with a tendency to warp, thick material may check and end split. Kiln schedule T6-D4 is suggested for 4/4 stock and T3-D3 for 8/4. Shrinkage green to ovendry: radial 3.8%; tangential 7.9%; volumetric 13.3%. Movement in service is rated as small.

**Working Properties:** Easy to work with hand and machine tools, dresses to a smooth finish, some tearing of interlocked grain; good gluing and nailing properties; takes a good finish.

**Durability:** Heartwood is rated as only moderately durable and should not be used in high hazard areas; sapwood liable to attack by powder-post beetles. Not resistant to marine borers.

**Preservation:** Generally rated as resistant to preservative treatments; sapwood reported to be moderately resistant to permeable, varying with species.

**Uses:** Veneer and plywood, joinery, flooring, furniture and cabinetwork, general construction, boatbuilding.