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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.

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Technology Transfer Fact Sheet



Center for Wood Anatomy Research

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