

# Kwila

**Botanical Names:** *Intsia bijuga* and *I. Palembangica*

**Family Name:** Fabaceae or Leguminosae, the legume family

## **Description**

The heartwood is yellowish-brown in colour when freshly sawn and weathers to dark brown. Yellow deposits in the vessels are a common feature and show out on longitudinal surfaces.; sapwood is variable in width, from 25mm to 50mm and sometimes up to 100mm wide, pale yellow in colour and sharply demarcated from the heartwood; grain may be straight or slightly interlocked and sometimes wavy; texture is moderately coarse, but even. The soft tissue may produce a 'zig-zag' tracery on back sawn material; it is often lustrous. The timbers are non-siliceous. Freshly sawn timber has a characteristic leathery-like odour which may persist in seasoned material. It has an astringent taste.

Tree		Properties						Uses
Height (m)	Diam. (m)	Origin of data	Density	Strength Group	Shrinkage	Durability	Lyctus Suscep.	
30 – 45	1 - 1.5	Australia	8+	S2	1 – 2	1 – 2	S	1, 3, 4,
		Papua New Guinea	9	S2				5, 6, 7,
		Malagasy	9	S2				8, 9, 10,
		Fiji	9	S1				11, 14,
		Philippines	8+	(S3)				16, 17,
		New Caledonia	8+	(S2)				20, 21,
		Indonesia	9	S2				23, 24, 27, 28

Information in above table relates to **Classification Information for all species.**

## **Stress Grades**

F11, F14, F17, F22, (unseasoned), F14, F17, F22, F27, (seasoned), when visually stress graded in accordance with AS2082:2000, 'Visually stress-graded hardwood for structural purposes.'

## **Characteristics**

Kwila is hard and strong. Timber kiln-and air-seasons well but rather slowly with negligible degrade and very little shrinkage or movement. Working properties variable. Cuts cleanly but may have a blunting or gumming effect on cutting edges. Cutting angle should be reduced to 20 degrees when planing quarter-sawn stock. Turns well.

Timber stains and polishes well. Nails difficult to drive in but holding power good. Preboring advisable to avoid splitting. Species glues reasonable well except with casein glues; oily surface may cause problems. One of the most important naturally durable timbers. However, extractives may leach out under very wet conditions, resulting in some fungal decay. Generally material is fairly resistant to termites and moderately resistant to marine borers. As flooring timber it shows moderate to high resistance to wear.

## **References:**

- 1) Queensland Government – Harwoods Queensland  
URL: <http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/hardwoods/qld/7680.html>
- 2) Bolza, E. & Keating, W.G. 1982, *Characteristics, Properties and Uses of Timbers South-east Asia, Northern Australia and the Pacific Volume 1*, CSIRO, Australia
- 3) Eddowes, Peter. J. 1977, *Commercial Timbers of Papua New Guinea (Their properties & Uses)*, Forest Products Research Centre, Papua New Guinea