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EXOTIC WOOD SPECIES



ASH, WHITE: ***Fraxinus spp.***

Ash is a mighty hardwood found growing along the Eastern U.S. The lumber has excellent bending qualities. It is stiff and very strong, and has natural shock absorption properties. The wood is generally straight-grained with coarse uniform texture. Uses include flooring, furniture, millwork and molding, doors, tools and turnings. Ash has an average weight of 42 lbs. per cubic foot. Janka scale: 1320



BASSWOOD: ***Tilia Americana***

Basswood is a lightweight hardwood found growing throughout Northeastern U.S. and the Great Lakes. The wood is creamy white in color, has a uniform texture and straight, indistinguishable grain. The wood is soft with low strength properties. Common uses include millwork, veneers, and carving. Basswood averages a light 26 lbs. per cubic foot. Janka scale 400



BOCOTE: ***Cordia gerascanthus***

Bocote is harvested in the West Indies, and the tropical regions of Central and South America. The heartwood is characterized by a golden brown accented by black streaks. It is highly resistant to insects, and extremely dense. The wood glues and machines well. Popular uses include flooring, instruments, decorative and figured veneers, inlay work, joinery and turning. Bocote averages 50 lb. per cubic foot. Janka scale: 2200



BLOODWOOD: *Brosimum rubescens*

Bloodwood is harvested in South America. The wood is extremely durable and very resistant to insects and decay. It bends well and has a high crushing strength. The heartwood ranges in color from a grayish red to a dramatic crimson. When finished the texture is silky and lustrous. Popular uses include flooring, marquetry, fine furniture and inlays. Bloodwood weighs in at 62 lbs. per cubic foot. Janka scale: 2900 (125% harder than red oak.)



BUBINGA: *Giubourtia spp.*

Bubinga can be found growing in equatorial Africa. The heartwood comes in varieties of pinkish to darker red and is frequently found with a variety of figuring from mottling to flamed, quilted and waterfall. Large slabs with live edges are available and are sought after for furniture construction. The lumber averages a substantial 58 lbs. per cubic foot. Janka scale: 1980



CANARYWOOD: *Centrolobium spp.*

Canarywood grows in Central and South America, from Panama on down to southern Brazil. The heartwood varies from a pale yellow to a reddish brown, usually with an interesting blend of colors throughout. More desirable pieces may even have a vivid rainbow of colors streaking through. Canarywood is resistant to insects and rot and

considered very durable. The wood is easy to work with and finishes well. It is used for fine furniture, turnings, flooring and cabinetry. Canarywood is also used for instruments, speaker enclosures and entertainment centers due to its inherent acoustical properties. Average weight is 50 lb. per cubic foot. Janka scale: 2200



CEDAR, ATLANTIC WHITE: *Chamaecyparis thyoides*

Atlantic White Cedar is an evergreen coniferous tree native to the eastern coast of North America from Maine down to Florida. It is naturally resistant to decay, rot, and insect damage. It is light in weight, soft, and durable in ground contact. Uses include boat construction, fences, shingles, and other outdoor applications. It has a density of 23 lbs. per cubic foot. Janka scale: 350



CHAKTE: *Sickingia salvadorensis*

Chakte is found growing in Belize, Guatemala, and the Yucatan Peninsula. It is commonly referred to as “Redheart” for the brilliant, blood-red hue of the heartwood. Exposure to air and light will dull the brilliance, but a quick plane or sand can bring the vibrancy back to surface. The wood machines well, with little to no tear out. Popular uses for the wood include turning, decorative veneers, marquetry, tool handles, jewelry boxes, bows and sporting goods. Average weight per cubic foot is 58 lbs. Janka scale: 1400



CHERRY, American: *Prunus serotina*

American cherry grows throughout Midwestern and Eastern U.S. The wood is stiff and strong and very dimensionally stable. The heartwood varies in color and darkens with age and exposure to light. Cherry is relatively free from warping, easy to machine, and glues and finishes exceptionally well. Uses include cabinetry, fine furniture, flooring, paneling, turnings and carvings. Average weight is around 36 lbs. per cubic foot. Janka scale: 950



CHESTNUT, AMERICAN RECLAIMED: *Castanea dentate*

In the 1800's massive Chestnut trees were harvested in abundance, widely used in the construction of barns and cabins, factories and fences. A fungal blight in the early 1900's decimated nearly 4 billion old-growth trees. Reclaimed American Chestnut is rather rare and highly valued for furniture, picture frames, and cabinetry. Weight averages 30 lbs. per cubic foot. Janka scale: 540



COCOBOLO: *Dalbergi retusa*

Cocobolo is native to Central America. The heartwood carries an interesting variety of hues, from black, brown and green, to red, yellow and blue while the sapwood is a striking cream color. The wood darkens considerably with age. Popular uses include musical instruments, boxes, handle stock, and all types of turning. Slow set epoxy is ideal for joining over wood glue. Care must be taken when working as the dust may produce an allergic reaction similar to poison-ivy to some. At 65 lbs. per cubic foot air dry, cocobolo weighs twice as much as cherry, too dense to float! Janka scale: 1136



CYPRESS: *Taxodium distichum*

Although Cypress is softwood, it can be found growing among hardwoods and unlike most conifers it sheds its foliage in the fall like a hardwood. Cypress is found primarily in swampy regions along the Southeastern coast. The oil in the heartwood makes it one of the most durable softwoods available when exposed to high moisture levels. Common uses include outdoor structures, shingles, trim, fence posts, shutters, siding and furniture. Cypress attaches, glues and finishes well. Average weight of the lumber is 32 lb. per cubic foot. Janka scale: 460



EBONY, AFRICAN BLACK: *Diospyros crassiflora*

African Ebony, or Gaboon Ebony as it is sometimes referred to, is found growing throughout equatorial Africa. Hundreds of varieties of Ebony exist, but most are small shrubs, larger lumber-producing varieties are prized and becoming increasingly rare. The heartwood is a rich, jet-black color with no visible grain, and very fine pores. The Greeks fashioned drinking goblets from the wood, believing it to be an antidote for poison. Ebony is durable, resistant to insects and has a high oil content which can pose difficulties with gluing. Ebony has been a choice material for use as fingerboards and keys for musical instruments. It is also prized for knife handles, inlays, and turning. The small size of the trees and the high demand for the wood make African Ebony one of the most expensive woods in the world. Ebony varies in weight, but averages at a heavy 76 lbs. per cubic foot. Janka scale: 3220



FIR, DOUGLAS: *Pseudotsuga menziesii*

Douglas fir is found throughout the Northwestern U.S. The wood is extremely strong for its relative light weight and is among the heaviest and hardest softwoods. It is highly-valued in the construction industry for its light weight, strength, and moderate cost. Average weight per cubic foot is 36 lbs. Janka scale: 620



GONCALO ALVES: *Astronium graveolens*

Goncalo Alves can be found growing from Mexico all the way south to Brazil. The heartwood is a warm, reddish brown with streaks that can darken with age. Goncalo Alves weathers well and is naturally very resistant to moisture absorption. Common uses of the wood include carving, turning, flooring, furniture and cabinetry. The average weight of the wood is 62 lbs. per cubic foot. Janka scale: 2160



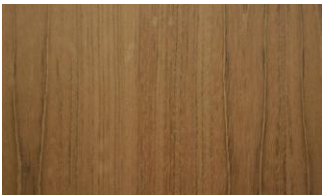
HICKORY: *Carya spp*

Hickory grows primarily in Central and Southeastern U.S. The heartwood is a pale, light brown with flecks of red, and the sapwood is cream-colored. Hickory is one of the hardest, strongest, and heaviest American woods. It is excellent for steam-bending and has natural shock resistance properties. The wood can pose difficulties to work with and machine due to the hardness, but is able to be sanded to a uniform, smooth finish. The Wright Brothers used the wood in the manufacture of their early “flying contraptions.” Hickory welcomes a wide variety of finishes, and is commonly used for flooring, tools, cabinetry, dowels, and sporting goods. Average weight is 54 lbs. per cubic foot. Janka scale: 1950



IROKO: *Chlorophora spp*

Iroko can be found growing in the tropical regions of Africa. Iroko is also known as “African Teak.” The heartwood is a golden brown. The wood is stable and durable with a look that somewhat resembles teak. Common uses include boat building, furniture, cabinetry and turning. Average weight comes in around 42 lbs. per cubic foot. Janka scale: 1260



JATOBA: *Hymenaea courbaril*

Jatoba is commonly known as Brazilian Cherry. It is prized for its exceptional beauty and hardness. Heartwood ranges from deep red to striking orange. The grain is tightly interwoven and visually textured, but polishes to a bright sheen. Pre-drill to avoid splitting. Steam-bending works well with Jatoba. Common uses include flooring, stair treads, furniture, tool handles and sporting goods. Jatoba weighs in at 56 lbs. per cubic foot. Janka scale: 2350



KATALOX: *Swartzia spp*

Katalox can be found growing from Central Mexico down to Northern regions in South America. The heartwood is a very dark brown that can appear almost black, with a purplish hue to it, while the sapwood is a contrasting yellowish-white. The extreme density of the wood can make it difficult to work with, and it is among the stiffest and strongest woods in the world. Katalox is commonly used for inlays, parquet flooring, fine furniture and turning. It makes a great substitute for ebony. Average weight per cubic foot: 73 lbs. Janka scale: 3,510



LEOPARDWOOD: *Cardwellia sublmis*

Also known as Lacewood, or Brazilian Lacewood. Leopardwood is primarily sourced from Chile and Brazil. Heartwood varies from light orange to reddish brown. The appearance is highly-figured with a “lace-like” appearance. The wood is of medium strength and bends well. It is prized for inlays, fine furniture and decorative pieces. It is an excellent choice for turning. Leopardwood weighs around 39 lbs. per cubic foot. Janka scale: 890



MAHOGANY, AFRICAN: *Khaya spp*

African Mahogany is sourced from the West Coast of Africa. It is probably one of the most widely sought-after of the true mahoganies at present due to availability, high quality and relative low-cost. The heartwood, usually a light pink when freshly sawn deepens to a reddish brown with age. Figuring is common, both mottled and striped. African Mahogany is widely used in boat building applications as well as furniture of all kinds. The weight is around 35 lbs. per cubic foot. Janka scale: 830



MAHOGANY, HONDURAN: *Swietenia macrophylla*

Honduran Mahogany is scattered throughout Central and South America. Honduran Mahogany weathers extremely well and is resistant to rot and wet conditions. The heartwood ranges from a light pink to a deep, reddish brown. The grain is straight, machines and finishes easily and turns well on a lathe. The wood accepts stains readily. Common uses include boat-building (Early Chris Craft boats were built with H. Mahogany,) outdoor structures and furniture and cabinets. Weight comes in around 33 lbs. per cubic foot. Janka scale: 800



MAHOGANY, SANTOS: *Myroxylon balsamum*

Native to Brazil, Santos Mahogany has a beautiful, reddish brown hue that remains consistent with age. Despite the name, Santos is not a true mahogany. It has a mahogany-like appearance and is actually stronger than true mahogany. A contributing factor to its popularity as flooring is its hardness rating (Janka) of 2,200 making it 18% harder than Hickory, the hardest of all North American hardwoods. Interlocking grains can pose some difficulty in working with Santos Mahogany. The lumber has a spicy scent when worked. Average weight comes in at 60 lbs. per cubic foot. Janka scale: 2200



MARBLEWOOD: *Marmaroxylon racemosum*

Marblewood can be found growing in Northeastern South America. Marblewood has a look that combines the light and dark patterning of Zebrawood with the color and texture of English Oak. Unlike Zebrawood, the dark brown streaks are more random and irregular in occurrence.



MAPLE, HARD: *Acer saccharum*

Hard Maple or Sugar Maple can be primarily found growing in Northeastern, Mid Atlantic as well as the Great Lake States. It is also known as Rock Maple or Sugar Maple and is the same tree from which maple syrup is tapped. Hard maple is considered a tone wood, and is known for its fine acoustical properties and “bright” sound quality. Hard maple is non-toxic and food safe; it is a great choice for countertops, butcher blocks and cutting boards, as well as eating utensils. Hard maple is 45 lbs. per cubic foot. Janka scale: 1450



MAPLE, SOFT: *Acer saccharinum*

Unlike Hard Maple, the term Soft Maple is used to describe several different species of Maple, most commonly Silver Maple and Red Maple. When examined side-by-side it can be extremely difficult to distinguish between hard and soft Maple. Indeed, soft maple is only “soft” in relation to hard maple and is actually a good choice for many of the same applications as hard maple. Soft maple typically weighs in around 35 lbs. per cubic foot. Janka scale: 700-950

MAPLE, CURLY/BIRDSEYE/QUILTED/AMBROSIA: See Soft Maple.



OAK, RED: *Quercus falcate*

Red oak is one of the fastest growing native oaks, and is one of the most popular domestic woods in use today. Generally Red Oak has a light reddish brown color and is more coarse-grained than white oak. Color however is not a reliable means to distinguish red from white oak as color variations are common. Red oak glues readily and stains well, but it does not have the durability and rot-resistance of white oak. Its

moderate price and overall strength and hardness make it an exceptional value for flooring, cabinet and furniture making. Weight per cubic foot is 45 lbs. Janka scale: 1290



OAK, WHITE: *Quercus alba*

White oak is native to the Eastern regions of North America. The heartwood appears as a light, creamy tan to medium brown in color. Of all the varieties, white oak is the heaviest, hardest and strongest. It's resistance to decay make it a fine choice in boat-building applications. The lumber has been widely used for making wine barrels as the pores do not allow liquid to penetrate. The moderate price and overall quality make it an exceptional value for woodworkers. Common uses are numerous and include flooring, containers, furniture, tools, and cabinetry. Average weight per cubic foot is 47lbs. Janka scale: 1360



PADAUK: *Pterocarpus dalbergioides*

Padauk can be found growing in equatorial Africa as well as the Andaman Islands and Southeast Asia. When cut the heartwood typically has a striking orange glow which turns a vivid dark red with exposure to air and light. Padauk has large, open pores and a moderately coarse texture. It glues easily and holds nails well. It is a wonderful wood for turning and finishes with a beautiful sheen despite the large pores. Common uses include decorative inlays, turnings, marquetry, cutting blocks, toys, and spindles. Padauk weighs around 45 lbs. per cubic foot. Janka scale: 1725



PALM, RED: *Cocos nucifera*

Red Palm grows in warm, tropical regions throughout the world, from southern Florida and Hawaii to Cambodia, India and Southeast Asia. The wood is a warm coco-colored brown with darker streaks throughout. It is a popular choice for pen and bowl blanks.

Care must be taken to avoid splintering while working and very sharp tools are necessary for clean results. Average weight is 53 lbs. per cubic foot.



PINE, ANTIQUE HEART & RIVER-RECOVERED: *Pinus palustris*

Much of the wood recovered from woolen mills, tobacco barns and the river basins of the Southeast is from old-growth Longleaf Heart Pine. The early colonists realized the beauty and durability of these ancient giants and sawmills were set up along the rivers to transport the massive timbers. The trees were also valued for their large quantities of turpentine and resin. Notches, known as “chevrons” were hand cut to into the trees to extract these oils. Many of the densest, heaviest timbers sank and have been submerged underwater for over a century. Some of the recovered timbers still have the historic chevron cuts, and are prized for use as mantle-pieces. Antique Heart pine is particularly heavy, durable and dense with tight growth rings, unlike the Loblolly pine used in much of the lumber industry today. Average weight varies per cubic foot, but is in the realm of 37-40 lbs. Janka scale: 870+



POPLAR, BALSAM: *Populus balsamifera*

Poplar grows throughout the entire Northeastern region of the U.S. It is one of the thirteen species of Cottonwood. The wood is pale and creamy in color and has an indistinguishable grain pattern. The heartwood is sometimes streaked with patches of olive green. It is lightweight, strong and very workable. The availability and low price of the lumber make it a popular choice for many applications. Common uses include cabinetry, face frames, molding and crate-building. Poplar weighs in at 23 lbs. per cubic foot. Janka scale: 540



PURPLEHEART: *Peltogyne spp*

Purpleheart can be found growing throughout Central and South America. The heartwood changes from a dull, grayish brown to a bright purple upon exposure to sunlight. Further

exposure to sunlight and air will result in a much deeper hue of eggplant that may turn almost black without a UV protective finish. Purpleheart is extremely durable and ranks among some of the stiffest and strongest in the world. For an exotic it is moderately priced, and the unusual color makes it a popular choice for inlays and turning. It is also used in boat-building, furniture, flooring and specialty projects. It weighs a hefty 61 lbs per cubic foot. Janka scale: 1860



ROSEWOOD, EAST INDIAN: *Dalbergia latifolia*

Harvested from India the heartwood is a deep, purplish brown, often with darker streaks throughout and darkens with age. Rosewood is very durable and resistant to rot and termites. The pores are small and grain narrowly interlocked. East Indian Rosewood has become the substitute of choice for the endangered Brazilian Rosewood. Common uses include turning, inlays, fine furniture and specialty objects. Weight is around 57 lbs. per cubic foot. Janka scale: 1780



SAPELE: *Entandrophragma cylindricum*

With origins in Africa, and belonging to the same family as Mahogany, Sapele shares similar interlocking grain patterns “ribbon stripe,” stability and weather resistance as mahogany. The wood polishes well and has ample natural luster. It is easy to carve and seldom splits. Average weight is around 45 lbs. per cubic foot. Janka scale: 1510



SASSAFRAS: *Sassafras albidum*

This species grows in Central and Eastern U.S. and is also known as Cinnamon-Wood. In color and grain Sassafras resembles Ash, but it is lighter in weight and has an aromatic scent when cut. At one time Sassafras was thought to have potent medicinal healing powers; bed frames were made from the lumber as it was believed to help individuals sleep more deeply. Tonics derived from the root of the Sassafras tree were second only to tobacco in exports from the Colonies to Europe. Today, most of the Sassafras lumber

harvested for use as furniture and flooring is listed as Ash, contributing to a lack of recognition and demand for the lumber. Sassafras weighs an average of 31 lbs. per cubic foot. Janka scale: 630



SPANISH CEDAR: *Cedrela huberi*

Despite the name, Spanish Cedar actually belongs to the mahogany family; and it is neither cedar nor Spanish. It is a lightweight and fragrant wood and extremely resistant to rot and insects. Native to the tropics of southern Mexico, Spanish Cedar can be found growing as far south as northern Argentina. Straight grain makes for good workability. The low density of the wood contributes to the wood's popularity as exterior siding and outdoor furniture material. It is considered one of the premier woods for humidors. Average weight is 26 lbs. per cubic foot. Janka scale: 570



TEAK: *Tectona grandis*

Considered by many to be the "King of all woods," Teak has the greatest capability of any wood to withstand the punishing effects of any outdoor environment from intense sunlight, to harsh wet climates. It is the premier choice for marine applications worldwide. Resinous oils, high silica and rubber content all contribute to Teak's ability to avoid rot, shrinkage and swelling. With sunlight and age Teak weathers from a warm brown to silvery gray. Care should be taken during finishing, as the same oils that make Teak so durable can hinder glue-ups and finish applications. Teak is also a popular choice for outdoor furniture and decking, and fetches a premium price no matter what the application. Average weight is around 40 lbs. per cubic foot. Janka scale: 1000



WALNUT, BLACK: *Juglans nigra*

Black walnut can be found growing throughout the Eastern U.S. The heartwood ranges

in color from a pale, gray-brown to a deep chocolate-brown. The sapwood is a pale white. Black walnut is decay resistant but susceptible to insect attack. It is a popular domestic choice for furniture, cabinetry, moldings, gunstocks, veneers and interior paneling. Walnut weights 41 lbs. per cubic foot on average. Janka scale: 1010



WENGE: *Millettia laurenti*

Wenge is an African wood with exceptionally dark heartwood. An interesting black streaking is usually present throughout the surface. Wenge is dark enough to be used as a substitute for ebony. It can pose difficulties to sand evenly and may blunt sharp tool edges. Excellent strength and hardness properties make it an excellent choice for flooring, tool handles and furniture. The wood averages about 57 lbs. per cubic foot. Janka scale: 2240



YELLOWHEART: *Euxylophora paraensis*

Yellowheart is harvested from Brazil. The heartwood is a pale to golden yellow that tends to darken slightly with age. One nice attribute of Yellowheart is the consistency and vibrancy of the color throughout. The wood has very small pores and polishes to a lovely high luster. Yellowheart glues and finishes well but is hard enough to have a blunting effect on tools. Common uses include inlays, jewelry boxes, marine applications, flooring, furniture and turned objects. Average weight per cubic lb is around 56 lbs. Janka scale: 1790



ZEBRAWOOD: *Microberlinia brazzavillensis*

Zebrawood, also known as Zebrano, is harvested from West Africa. The heartwood is creamy in color with dark brown longitudinal stripes which give the wood an appearance similar to the markings of a zebra. In quartersawn pieces the stripes are quite uniform, although depending upon the cut and the tree, stripes can appear wavy and irregular. On average the tree bark is nearly a foot in thickness. The wood is

durable, strong and stiff, with fairly coarse texture and open grain. It is prized in furniture-making for its striking appearance. Zebrawood is also used in turning and veneers. Average weight is 54 lbs. per cubic foot. Janka scale: 2097



ZIRICOTE: ***Cordia dodecandra***

Ziricote can be found growing in Central America and Mexico. Heartwood ranges in color from cocoa to dark brown and can be purplish or green in hue. Dark bands and formations of growth rings give the wood a truly unique appearance and can look like “mountain ranges” and “landscapes.” The wood is similar to rosewood in hue, straight grain and fine texture. Common uses include fine furniture, cabinetry, gunstocks, musical instruments and turned objects. Ziricote weighs an average of 54 lbs. per cubic foot. Janka scale: 2240