

Purpleheart / Papaati / Amarante



Trade Name: **Purpleheart**

Other Names: Papaati, Roxinho

Scientific Name: *Peltogyne venosa*

Family Name: *Caesalpinaceae*

Specie Brief: A unique bright colour purple hardwood with sound mechanical and stability properties and consistent texture that allow it to be used for outdoor and indoor uses.

Wood Description		Physical & Mechanical Properties	
Heartwood Color	Purple	Specific Gravity (kg/m3)*	0.87
Sapwood Color	Clearly demarcated	Monin Hardness*	7.6
Texture	Medium	Crushing Strength*	80 MPa
Grain	Straight	Radial Shrinkage	4.40%
Cross Grain	Absent	Tangential Shrinkage	6.70%
Durability	Class 2-3 - durable	Tangential / Radial Ratio	1.50
Marine Durable	Class 5 - no	* at 12% moisture content	

Key Products & Uses:

- Large Timbers
- Outdoor Decking
- Marine Timbers
- Joinery
- Furniture
- Hardwood Flooring

Properties & Characteristics

Purpleheart is an amazingly unique timber that once sawn or machined and exposed to sunlight goes through an oxidation process whereby the heartwood goes from a yellow brownish color to a bright purple color. Hence the name 'Purpleheart'. The dark purple colour then changes to a shiny 'driftwood' silver if used outdoors and exposed to sunlight for long periods. Markets such as New Zealand, prize purpleheart for outdoor decking due to its clean silver color and stability when used outdoors. Purpleheart's straight grain and fine texture gives it a consistent beautiful appearance and allows it to machine with a very smooth finish.

Large Timbers & Marine Uses

Purpleheart trees are very large in size with minimal internal defects and a small sapwood meaning they can produce large beams and timbers. The natural stability of the wood and moderate outdoor durability also makes it suitable for various end-uses involving large beams and timbers. As it is a tough wearing species and can take abrasive knocks, it is suitable for industrial applications. In the past Purpleheart has been successfully used for marine construction and boat building applications.

Outdoor Decking

Purpleheart is very stable after drying and machines very well to produce a smooth consistent finish. This combined with its moderate outdoor durability, unique natural color, and clean silver weathering once exposed to direct sunlight makes it very suitable as outdoor decking. Purpleheart weathers very well in coastal environments and fades to a nice driftwood silver giving it preference as a decking species in certain markets.

Joinery & Furniture

As it is a very stable timber once dried, machines well, and due to its rare color, Purpleheart provides a unique species as a joinery timber. In South America and the Caribbean, it is commonly used for doors and furniture. The natural color contrast between purpleheart's dark purple heartwood and yellow sapwood also make it highly suitable as desirable live-edge table tops.