

BRIDGES ♦ BOARDWALKS ♦ JETTIES

SPECIES Massaranduba

FAMILY Sapotaceae

LATIN NAME Manilkara bidentata

DISTRIBUTION West Indies, Central America,
Northern South America



USES

Bridge construction, Decking, Flooring, Heavy structural use, Wharf construction

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Massaranduba heartwood is light red to rose red when freshly cut, turning dark reddish brown on exposure; sapwood whitish or pale brown, distinct, but not sharply demarcated from the heart-wood. The grain is usually straight but sometimes interlocked, and the texture is fine and uniform. The timber is hard and extremely heavy.

MECHANICAL PROPERTIES

Medium to easy - Moderately easy to work despite its high density. It machines and finishes to a very smooth surface. The timber takes a fine polish and has the appearance of walnut. Gluing requires special care because of the wood's resistance to absorption of moisture.

SEASONING

Generally reported to be difficult to dry, tending to develop severe checking, warp and casehardening, and requiring care in piling to assure a slow rate of drying. However, reports from Puerto Rico state that 25 mm lumber was air dried to 19% moisture content in four months with only a small amount of degrade in the form of very slight cup, crook and bow, and without apparent surface checking.

DURABILITY 1

Similar or superior to greenheart in bending strength, shock resistance, hardness, shear and in across-the-grain properties of compression and tension, but slightly weaker than greenheart in compression parallel to the grain (crushing strength) and in elastic resilience in bending, and quite inferior in stiffness.

DURABILITY 2

Strength Class	D60
Weight per m ³ 12% m.c.	1100 Kg
Modulus of elasticity 12% m.c.	24410 N/mm ²
Durability	Very durable