

SAPELE SPECIFICATIONS



Common Name(s) : Sapele

Botanical Name : Entandrophragma cylindricum

DISTRIBUTION

Sapele is a native to the rain forests of West Africa, from the Ivory Coast to the Cameroons, and eastward through Zaire to Uganda. Virtually all the Sapele imported into New Zealand is heartwood.

QUALITY STANDARDS AND GENERAL PROPERTIES

The sapwood of Sapele is whitish to pale yellow in colour. The heartwood is medium to fairly dark reddish brown or purplish brown. It has a moderately fine grain which is sometimes interlocked.

Sapele is characterised by a marked regular stripe which is particularly pronounced on quarter sawn surfaces. It has no distinctive taste but has a Cedar-like scent when freshly milled.

The timber generally dries fairly rapidly. However, it has a marked tendency to warp and its drying properties may vary. It requires careful stacking and care should also be taken in kiln drying to avoid warp and degradation.

The heartwood is moderately durable. The sapwood is liable to powder post beetle (lyctus specie) attack. The heartwood is resistant to pressure treatment and waterborne preservative while the sapwood is moderately resistant.

TYPICAL END USE APPLICATIONS

Furniture, interior joinery and cabinet work.

TECHNICAL DATA

Density	At 12% mc	749 kg/m ³
Shrinkage	Tangential	Zero to 4.4%
(Green to 12% mc)	Radial	Zero to 2.8%
Durability	Heartwood is moderately durable	