

African Mahogany

African Mahogany (*Khaya*) is a genus of seven species of trees in the mahogany family Meliaceae, native to tropical Africa and Madagascar. All species become big trees 30-35 m tall, rarely 45 m, with a trunk over 1 m trunk diameter, often buttressed at the base. The leaves are pinnate, with 4-6 pairs of leaflets, the terminal leaflet absent; each leaflet is 10-15 cm long abruptly rounded toward the apex but often with an acuminate tip. The leaves can be either deciduous or evergreen depending on the species. The flowers are produced in loose inflorescences, each flower small, with four or five yellowish petals and ten stamens. The timber of *Khaya* is called African mahogany, the only timber widely accepted as mahogany besides that of the true mahogany, of the genus *Swietenia*. *Khaya senegalensis*, also known as the African dry zone mahogany is also used for its non timber parts. In West Africa, Fulani herdsman prune the tree during the dry season to feed cattle.

Anegre

Anegre is milled from the Tawa tree (*Beilschmiedia tawa*) is a New Zealand broadleaf tree common in the central parts of the country. Tawa is often the dominant canopy species in lowland forests in the North Island and north east of the South Island, Individual specimens may grow up to 30 meters or more in height with trunks up to 1.2 meters in diameter, and they have smooth dark bark. The word "tawa" is the Maori name for the tree. One of the few hardwood trees in the country with good timber, the wood of this tree can be used for attractive and resilient floor boarding. Although largely protected in conservation areas and by robust environmental legislation, licenses are occasionally granted for the odd fallen tree to be milled for its timber.

Birdseye Maple

Birdseye maple is a phenomenon that occurs within several kinds of maple for unknown reasons. It has a distinctive pattern that resembles tiny, swirling eyes disrupting the smooth lines of grain. Birdseye maple is not a variety or species of maple and is not to be confused with maple burl. Research into the cultivation of Birdseye Maple has so far discounted the theories that it is caused by pecking birds deforming the wood grain or that an infecting fungus makes it twist. However, no one has demonstrated a complete understanding of the combination of climate, soil, tree variety, insects, viruses or genetic mutation that reliably produces the effect. Some sources say that bird's eye maple is created when a tree naturally falls into the water after it has been cut down, the lumberjacks will then leave it in that water, just long enough that it doesn't rot, but begins to get a strange pattern to it, the bird's eye pattern.

Black Walnut

Juglans nigra, commonly known as black walnut or American walnut, is a tree species native to eastern North America. It grows mostly alongside rivers, from southern Ontario, Canada west to southeast South Dakota, south to Georgia, northern Florida and southwest to central Texas. The wood has a medium hardness and looks great when turned and polished.

Bloodwood

Brosimum paraense is a tree found in Brazil. Its dense heart wood is commonly called bloodwood due to its striking red color. The sapwood is easily distinguished by its yellowish-white color. The wood has a fine texture and takes a high polish. The wood is very hard and has a tendency to blunt tools. The wood is used in decorative woodworking and woodturning under the names Satine and Satine Bloodwood.

Bocote

Bocote is a Spanish name used in Mexico and Central America for several species of *Cordia*. *Cordia* is a genus of shrubs and trees in the borage family *Boraginaceae*. About 300 species have been identified worldwide, mostly in warmer regions. Many of the species are commonly called Manjack. Many *Cordias* have pungently fragrant showy flowers similar in appearance to a gardenia and are popular in gardens, although they are not especially hardy. Like most other *Boraginaceae*, most have hairy leaves. Many folks down south refer to this tree as a Texas Olive Tree.

Bubinga

The genus is well-known for its luxury timbers. The best-known timber is Bubinga (*Guibourtia demeusei*, aka kevazingo). Another is ovankol. Species of *Guibourtia* also produce Congo copal. The wood is often used by luthiers for harps and other instruments, such as bass guitars, because of its mellow and well-rounded sound. It has been used in drum shells as well. Drum companies such as Tama offer various high-end drum kits with plies of Bubinga in the shells. Bubinga is sometimes used in the production of archery bows, in particular as the main wood of the handle in some flat bows. Bubinga is also used in furniture making, usually for tables, as large slabs of the dense wood can be cut, and with very little manipulation, be used for a table top. Luxury car maker Lexus also makes use of the wood in their luxury vehicles. They are known to produce chalconoids, relatives of medically important chemicals called stilbenes, one famous one being resveratrol.

Canary Wood

Liniidendron Tulipifera from the magnolia family, the genus name is from the Greek lily and tree, referring to the showy lily like flowers. The specific epithet is an old generic name meaning tulip-bearing. Canary wood typically has a yellowish color with streaks of orange red and even white and black. Often used when making fine wood pens, inlays and fine furniture details.

Cedar- Ozark Aromatic

Juniperus virginiana (Eastern Red Cedar, Red Cedar, Eastern Juniper, Red Juniper, Pencil Cedar and Ozark Cedar) is a species of juniper native to eastern North America, from southeastern Canada to Gulf of Mexico, east of the Great Plains. Further west, it is replaced by the related Rocky Mountain Juniper, and the southwest, by Ashe Juniper.

Red Cedar is a dense slow-growing tree that may never become more than a bush in poor soil. The fine-grained, soft pinkish to brownish red heartwood is fragrant, very light and very durable, even in contact with soil. Because of its rot resistance the wood is often used for fence posts. Because the aromatic wood is avoided by moths it is in demand as lining for

clothes chests and closets, often referred to as cedar closets and cedar chests. It was once a premier wood for pencils. If correctly prepared, it makes excellent English style longbows, flat bows, and Native American type sinewed bows. The wood is marketed as “Eastern Red Cedar” or “Aromatic Cedar”. The wood has become sought after by turners for its colorful swirls and knots. Turn well and finishes to a fine high gloss.

Cocobolo

Cocobolo is a hardwood from Central America yielded by two to four closely related species of the genus *Dalbergia*. The best known and probably the species contributing most of the wood in the trade is *Dalbergia retusa*. Because of its great beauty and high value, this species has been heavily exploited and the tree is now in danger of extinction outside of national parks, reserves and commercial plantations. Cocobolo is a very beautiful wood, known to change color after being cut. The heartwood is typically orange or reddish-brown in color, often with a figuring of darker irregular traces weaving through the wood. The sapwood is a creamy yellow and contrasts sharply with the heartwood. It is fine textured and oily in look and feel, and stands up well to repeated handling and exposure to water. The wood is very hard, and is easily machined, although due to the abundance of natural oils, the wood tends to clog abrasives and fine-toothed saw blades. Like other very hard, very dense tropical woods, Cocobolo is brittle. A common use is in gun grips, small turnings and knife handles. Cocobolo is also quite dense, and even a large block of the cut wood will produce a clear musical tone if struck. Due to its density and hardness, Cocobolo can be polished to a lustrous, glassy finish.

Honduras Mahogany

Swietenia humilis (also called Honduras Mahogany, Mexican Mahogany, or Pacific Coast Mahogany) is a species of plant in the Meliaceae family. It is found in Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, and Panama.

Jatobá

Jatobá or Guapinol is a tree common to the Caribbean, Central, and South America and Brazil. It is a hardwood that is used for furniture, flooring and decorative purposes. Although Jatobá is sometimes referred to as Brazilian or South American Cherry, it is not a cherry tree and it is in no way, botanically or otherwise related to Black Cherry, a very common American hardwood. Jatobá is also known as South American Locust, stinking toe (because of the smell of its seed pods), Brazilian copal and various other names. Jatobá produces an orange, resinous, sticky gum that converts to amber through a chemical process that requires millions of years. Amber of million-year-old trees have provided scientists with many clues to its prehistoric presence on earth as well as to the insects and other plants encased in it. (As shown in the Jurassic Park movies).

Leopardwood

Leopardwood is often confused with Lacewood, because they have similar characteristics. However, Leopardwood is much denser and it is much darker in color. Extremely texture-rich and visually stunning, the sapwood of Leopardwood is reddish-brown, while the heartwood is chocolate colored. The one thing that separates this wood from others is that it

features "leopard spots" inside the wood itself. The spots are a lighter brown that give the wood a unique textured look and feel.

Lignum Vitae

A trade wood, from trees of the genus *Guaiacum*, also called Guayacan. This wood was once very important for uses requiring strength, weight, and hardness. All species are potentially endangered species. The wood is obtained chiefly from *Guaiacum Officinale* and *Guaiacum Sanctum*, both small and very slow growing trees indigenous to the northern islands and northern coast of South America. Also found in the Bahamas and throughout the Caribbean. Not to be confused with Verawood or Argentine lignum vitae; it is somewhat similar in appearance and working qualities as genuine Lignum Vitae but not as hard, or does it develop the green tint.

The name (Lignum Vitae) is Latin for "Wood of Life", and derives from its medicinal uses: the resin has been used to treat a variety of medical conditions from coughs to arthritis; wood chips & sawdust can be used to brew tea. Other names are Palo Santo (Spanish for Holy Wood), Greenheart, and Ironwood. This is what rope block & tackle rigs were made from in the days of wooden ships. More recently it was used to make wheel bearing races in the high speed production industry. The heartwood is the hardest to find.

The wood is hard, dense and extremely durable, the densest wood traded; it will easily sink in water. On the Janka Scale of hardness of woods, Lignum Vitae ranks highest of all woods with a hardness of 4500 (compared to Hickory at 1820, Red Oak at 1290 and Yellow Pine at 690). The heartwood turns greenish in color once exposed, leading to the common name Greenheart. In the ship building, cabinetry, and woodturning crafts the term greenheart refers to the greenish tint of the heartwood when exposed to the open air. The green color is caused by oxidation.

Osage Orange

The Osage-orange was commonly used as a tree row windbreak in the prairie states, which gives it one of its colloquial names, "hedge apple". It was one of the primary trees used in President Franklin D. Roosevelt's "Great Plains Shelterbelt" WPA project, which was launched in 1934 as an ambitious plan to modify weather and prevent soil erosion in the Great Plains states, and by 1942 resulted in the planting of 30,233 shelterbelts containing 220 million trees that stretched for 18,600 miles (29,900 km). The sharp-thorned trees were also planted as cattle-detering hedges before the introduction of barbed wire and afterward became an important source of fence posts.

The trees acquired the name bois d'arc, or "bow-wood", from early French settlers who observed the wood being used for war clubs and bow-making by Native Americans. Meriwether Lewis was told that the people of the Osage Nation "esteem the wood of this tree for the making of their bows, that they travel many hundred miles in quest of it." Many modern bowyers assert the wood of the Osage Orange is superior even to English Yew for this purpose, though this opinion is by no means unanimous. The trees are also known as "Bordarch" trees, most likely originating from a corruption of "bois d'arc."

The wood is yellow in color with occasional streaks of orange which give the appearance of pale flames. The sapwood which is very thin is a light brown to white color.

Padauk

Pterocarpus soyauxii (African Padauk or African Coralwood) is a species of *Pterocarpus* in the family Fabaceae, native to central and tropical west Africa, from Nigeria east to Congo-Kinshasa and south to Angola. It is a tree growing to 27–34 m tall, with a trunk diameter up to 1 m with flaky reddish-grey bark. Medium to hard wood, heartwood is deep orange red that will age to a deeper orange brown. It has a moderately coarse grain texture with a straight to interlocking grain pattern. This wood machines and turns well. Dust from the wood can cause dermatitis in some people, protective clothing and use of a dust mask is recommended.

Pecan

The pecan tree is a large deciduous tree, growing to 65-130 ft in height. It typically has a spread of 40-75 ft with a trunk up to 10 ft in diameter. A 10-year-old sapling will stand about 16 ft tall. The leaves are alternate and pinnate with 9–17 leaflets. Pecans were one of the most recently domesticated major crops. Although wild pecans were well-known among the colonial Americans as a delicacy, the commercial growing of pecans in the United States did not begin until the 1880s. Today, the U.S. produces between 80% and 95% of the world's pecans.

Purple Heart

The trees are prized for their beautiful heartwood which, when cut, quickly turns from a dark brown to a rich purple color. Exposure to ultraviolet (UV) light darkens the wood to a brown color with a slight hue of the original purple. This effect can be minimized with a finish containing a UV inhibitor. This wood is quite dense, and if it is to be worked, then a sharp blade is required to cut it cleanly. For uses of this wood it is prized for fine inlay work, woodturning, cabinetry, and furniture. **The dust can cause nausea.** The wood is also known as amaranth and violet wood. Overharvesting has caused several species to become endangered in areas where they were once abundant.

Sapele

Sapele is a commercially important wood and is reminiscent of mahogany, with a distinctive figure, typically applied where figure is important. It is sought after as flooring for its durability and beautiful graining. Among its more exotic uses is that in guitar manufacturing, in the top, back and sides of acoustic guitar bodies as well as the tops of electric guitar bodies. Sapele is also chosen for the neck piece of ukuleles due to its pleasant aesthetic quality. Late in the 1990s, it started to be used as a board for Basque percussion instrument txalaparta on the strength of the livelier quality of the sound. It is also used by American car maker Cadillac for interior wood trim on its vehicles.

Sycamore Spalted Quarter-Sawn

Platanus occidentalis or the American Sycamore, also known as American plane, Occidental plane, and Buttonwood, is one of the species of *Platanus* native to North America. It is usually called Sycamore in North America, a name which can refer to other types of trees in other parts of the world. A Sycamore tree is easily recognized by its mottled exfoliating bark. The bark of all trees has to yield to a growing trunk; in the case of trees such as the Silver Maple and the Shagbark Hickory the process is not hidden, but the Sycamore shows the process of exfoliation more openly than any other tree. The bark of the trunk and larger limbs flakes off in great irregular masses, leaving the surface mottled, and greenish-white, gray and brown. Sometimes the smaller limbs look as if whitewashed.

This beautiful domestic wood is often left to grow to full maturity because the wood is very difficult to split for firewood and most sawmills don't quarter saw their product. Sycamore produces beautiful quarter sawn lumber in a color range from light tan to an orange brown. This is a beautiful and very under-appreciated domestic timber which is most often used for high end furniture and cabinetry and has become more appreciated as a tone wood. Woodturners seek it for its interesting spalt lines and intricate spotty grain patterns. The grain displays a lace or snakeskin pattern when quarter sawn. This wood is often misrepresented as leopardwood due to the dark spots which can develop from the spalting of sugars in the wood sap.

Thorny Locust

Any of the thorny trees of the genus *Gleditsia*, in the pea family (Fabaceae), with about 12 species native to North and South America, tropical Africa, and central and eastern Asia. Some species are cultivated as ornamentals, such as *G. triacanthos* of North America. This tree grows to about 130 feet high but is generally lower under cultivation. It bears long compound leaves divided into as many as 30 oval leaflets, each of which is about 1 inch long. Some leaves may be doubly divided, in which case the leaflets are more numerous and smaller. The small, greenish white flowers are borne in clusters in the leaf axils. The fruit is a reddish brown, flattened pod, up to 18 inches long, sometimes sickle shaped and twisted. Brown, beanlike seeds lie within, separated by a sticky, sweet-tasting substance. The trunk and branches have clusters of stout, simple or branched thorns, about 4 inches long. The wood is rather striated in color, ranging from a pale yellow through a spectrum of gold to a soft brown.

Wenge

Wenge (pronounced "wengay") wood (also known as palissandre d'Afrique/du Congo (African/Congolese rosewood), faux ebenier, dikela, mibotu, bokonge and awong) is a tropical timber of the Wenge tree (*Millettia laurentii*) from Africa. The tree's heartwood is very dark and dense with a coarse grain and a pattern of nearly black grains separated by dark brown grains. Its sapwood is distinct, being pale yellow. The tree is native to the

Republic of Congo, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Cameroon, Gabon, Tanzania, and Mozambique. The wood is popular in woodturning, especially for segmented woodturning due to its dimensional stability and the color contrast when mixed with lighter woods such as maple. The wood is sometimes used in the making of archery bows. In particular as a laminate in production of a flat bow. When used in the flooring industry, it is one of the hardest woods in use due to its high impact strength and durability.

Western Red Alder

Found in southern Alaska, western British Columbia and the northwestern Coast Ranges of the US, red alder grows on cool and moist slopes; inland and at the southern end of its range (California) it grows mostly along streams and in swamps. The wood is not durable in outdoor use but due to its workability and ease of finishing it is increasingly in use for furniture and cabinetry. Historically it has not been considered of high value for timber but it is now becoming one of the western USA's more important hardwoods. Alder wood ranges from white through pinkish to light brown, is relatively soft, and has medium luster. It is easily worked, glues well, and takes a good finish.

Yellowheart

Zanthoxylum flavum (also called West Indian Satinwood, Yellow Sanders, Yellow-head, or Yellowheart) is a species of plant in the Rutaceae family. It is found in Anguilla, the Bahamas, Bermuda, Brazil, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Honduras, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Saint Lucia, and the United States. It is threatened by habitat loss.

Zebrawood

(*Microberlinia brazzavillensis*) Medium to heavy hardwood with possible coarse to very coarse grain texture. Light tan to golden yellow with streaks of dark brown to black. The most common species available are from West Africa, (Gabon, Cameroon, and Congo). They are an equatorial tree of medium to large size, gregarious, commonly growing in pure strands along riverbanks. It can grow to heights of 150 feet with trunk diameters of 4 to 5 feet. When cut it gives off an unpleasant aroma which disappears as it dries. It still has a rather unpleasant smell as it is turned. Recommend dust mask protection.