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THE TAPROOT

WEST WIND HARDWOOD INC.

(P) 1-800-667-2275 - (F) 250-656-9663 - (W) www.westwindhardwood.com - (E) westwind@islandnet.com

Volume 13
October 2007
By: Shelley Nielsen

Forest Facts:

Canada's most productive forests occur in BC's coastal temperate region. In this region, Douglas-fir occupy approximately 3 million Hectares.

Quote of the Month:

"All things
on earth
point home
in old October"

- *Thomas Wolfe*

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Latest News

INTRODUCING IPÊ DECK TILES

Cost effective, durable and easy to install, Ipê deck tiles are a great way to add style to your next project.

Ipê is virtually indestructible by weather, wear & tear and vandalism.It has the durability and strength of teak but for a lot less money

Well suited for outdoor use, these tiles will age to a beautiful light silvery finish.

Visit our web site or email us directly for more information.

Of Interest

Built by Ric Moodie of Winnipeg, Manitoba. Ric has built a 17' WRCedar and AYCedar Guillemot Kayak (designed by Nick Schade) as seen above. This is his third small wooden boat; having previously built an Optimist Sailing Pram and a Stitch & Glue Kayak. Future plans are for a smaller Guillemot Kayak for his wife. Committed to non-motorized forms of recreation, summer days will find him sailing a small dinghy or paddling a kayak; winter months sailing a wooden DN iceboat. When not on the water, he studies and teaches fish ecology.

Feature Story

BLEACHED FIBRES

Why bleach? Sometimes it's all about what is currently the market trend. Darker woods such as walnut, which are naturally dark in colour, may be bleached to a lighter colour, or even to white. Light-coloured woods may be made lighter, or blonde. Or perhaps you are trying to subdue the rays, flecks and figure or control mineral streaks?

Possible Reasons for Bleaching:

1. Dark Spots and Mineral Streaks
    a. Maple often has dark spots

2. Iron Stains in Oak
    a. Greenish or black stain often results after direct contact with iron
    b. Caused due to a chemical reaction with the tannic acid occurring naturally in oak

3. Glue Stains
    a. Oops!!

4. Blue Stain
    a. Unsightly dark stains known as blue stain, sap stain or spalting can appear in the sapwood of some species
    b. Spalting is due to the growth of fungi

5. Bleaching Walnut
    a. Take care to avoid areas with a 'purple' cast as these may not bleach well turning a pink colour, or at best a pink streaking may occur
    b. Some suggest applying a weak solution of a green stain to neutralize the 'pink'

Bleaches work through a chemical reaction between the bleach solution and the colour in the wood. The reactions differ from solution to solution – wood species to wood species. Species do differ with the ease in which they can be bleached. Always run a test piece prior to committing to an entire project. Thick pieces of wood cannot be bleached satisfactorily all the way through. Work with the finished project; bleaching only the surface for the desired effect.

If varnish, stain or other finishing product, including wax oil finishes, are present on the wood surface, they must be removed completely before the bleach solution is applied. Wood bleaches might not bleach through the dyes or pigments used in stains. Waxy materials may hinder the absorption of the bleach solution. Always give a final sanding before starting this process.

With small jobs or with very confined areas, such as mineral streaks, the bleaching solution can be applied with a cloth swab, brush or sponge. Larger production jobs often require a spray gun. Ensure the gun is equipped with a glass jar and the gun rinsed with water immediately after each use.

It is not a difficult process, however, selecting the proper solution does require some attention. All of the chemicals used can be dangerous if used improperly. Ensure adequate ventilation. Take care to protect yourself from direct contact and always read and follow the manufacturers' instructions on the containers. Wear gloves and goggles. Keep water nearby and immediately rinse off any of the chemicals that touch your skin.

The following recommendations are meant as a general guide to three bleaching solutions commonly available to woodworkers.

1. Hydrogen Peroxide (30-35% strength)

- One of the most powerful, satisfactory solutions available
- Usually comes in two parts, commonly labelled A and B. “A” is usually sodium hydroxide and ‘B’ hydrogen peroxide; when the two are mixed, a strong oxidizing reaction takes place
- The chemical reaction on the wood, between the two chemicals, removes the colour of the wood; also may remove the natural lustre
- Used to lighten the natural colour; excellent in evening out colour variations between heartwood and sapwood
- This treatment does not work at all on some woods like ebony, and to varying effect on others if too much is put on; it can leave a greenish tinge on walnut
- Practice on a test piece!

2. Oxalic Acid

- Excellent for ‘removing’ iron stains and black water rings; some success with inks and pigment stains
- Oxalic acid may slightly lighten a wood colour, but in most cases all it will do is remove weathering and graying; often found in deck cleaners and brighteners
- Called reducing bleaches; actually converts the colouring compound to a different, colourless one. The important part to remember is that bleaches do not really ‘remove’ the colour of a substance; they simply change it to a slight chemically different, colourless one

3. Chlorine

- Possibly the simplest method; readily available in a weak state as in laundry bleach
- Used to remove or lighten dye stains and food stains such as grape juice
- High concentration bleaches, such as those used for swimming pools, can be used for a more aggressive treatment

After the Fact: The final sanding will most likely remove any residual chemicals, but it is always preferable to rinse the wood with warm water upon completion of the bleaching job. Allow enough time for the moisture and oxygen to leave the wood; suggested dry time 8 - 24 hours. Failure to neutralize or remove chemical residue can result in hundreds of tiny bubbles and/or blistering in the final finish. A final sanding will remove raised grain caused by the bleaching process. Sand very lightly otherwise the thin layer of bleached wood may be cut through.

All references to bleaching solutions warn there are frustrations and certainly no guarantees to satisfaction. Remember the kind of wood you have, the type of stain you want to remove, how the stain got there in the first place and how long the stain has been there all factors in to its effectiveness

What if? Perhaps an opportunity to ignore these failures is offered here, and rather, an opportunity to allow your creative juices to flow is presented. I read about a talented refinisher who carefully changed a small stain into a knot using an artist’s brush and some dark brown stain on a pine coffee table. Upon completion, the ‘knot’ was unnoticeable and natural looking. Clever!

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Volume 14
December 2007
By: Shelley Nielsen

Forest Facts:

Deck the Halls
With Boughs of....

- Growing Christmas trees provides a habitat for wildlife.
- Recycled trees have been used to make sand and soil erosion barriers and been placed in ponds for fish shelter.
- Christmas trees remove dust and pollen from the air.
- 98 percent of all Christmas trees are grown on farms; bring employment and industry to communities.

Quote of the Month:

"Tis the Season for kindling the fire of hospitality in the hall, the genial flame of charity in the heart."

- Washington Irving

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Of Interest

CHERRY TWIST DOOR

Local artist Don Bastian has amalgamated a lifetime of skills into one unique hobby.

Never quite sure how to describe his 'work' when asked, Bastian simply says "part art, part driftwood, part sculpture". But his 'art' is so much more, it is functional art.

Functional as in, hand carved vine & leaf wine cellar doors, benches with integrated driftwood sculpture support systems, doors with whole driftwood trees 'growing' through them, or butcher blocks with live edge focal points, dining room tables, sideboards, all with a stimulating visual presentation to such everyday items that would normally never get a second glance.

Don never repeats a piece, which would be almost impossible with driftwood, so each becomes a collectors item, as unique as the tree itself, reveling in the knots, miss-shapen holes and grain-twists each piece presents. Working full time as a finish carpenter for a Victoria architect/owned renovation company,

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he spends his spare time creating his unique pieces. In his words, he is a "...a slave to the beach and the imagination of the driftwood."

Seasons Greetings
From the staff of
West Wind Hardwood

Feature Story

Cooperage – The Art of Barrel Making
or The Marriage of Wood and Wine

The art of cooperage is an ancient skill, with little modern improvements over 1,000 years. And as in most art forms, the highest standards of quality are still maintained by the hand of the 'artist' – a skilled cooper. It typically takes eight man hours to produce a single barrel.

Historically, barrels were used for storage and transportation of wine, as well as other liquids, and goods like salt. Few physical traces of oak barrels are found, however, references to barrels are found in old literature. These utilitarian containers were usually made of pine, or from any cheap source of local

species. However, wine barrels have very demanding characteristics important to the life and flavour of these liquids. The average life span of a wine barrel is five years. These barrels can be restored extending this life cycle; however, the quality is not the same. Sadly, these barrels are often recycled and seen as planters in gardens; a debatable end to a noble art.

Parts of a wine barrel are very basic with actual dimensions varying from barrel to barrel; often a result of the hands-on approach. Variations affect size and capacity. Most commonly seen are the Bordeaux and Burgundy barrel; others include Whiskey and *Hogshead*** barrels.

**A hogshead is a large cask of liquid; more specifically referring to a specific volume measured in imperial units as applied to wine, ale or cider

Only the best oak wood, specifically white oak species, is selected for the barrels; best selected by hand. This selection determines the quality of the finished product, and the wood is selected on a variety of criteria. Factors include the wood fibres, the fineness of grain and tannin content. Traditionally, wine barrels are made from white oak, as it meets the requirements of porosity, strength, resilience, workability, weight and character. The large thick rays of the wood give white oak extra toughness and bending ability, while making it relatively stable during dry shrinkage and wet swelling.

Logs are split to preserve the wood grain without breakage. After quartering, splitting and the planing, the wood is naturally aged outdoors. Exposure to the elements purge the wood of undesirable odours and harsher tannins which could affect the flavour of the wine. The development of sugars and acids are monitored. This '*weathering*' process takes many years.

French Oak is still considered by many the most desirable wood. Most of which comes from forests planted in the days of Napoleon for ship building. Each forest produces wood with distinctive characteristics, and selections are based on the desired effect on the finished wine. Tight grained wood tends to impart the *Oak* characteristics (vanilla, spice and butter flavours) much more slowly than wood with looser grain.

American Oak was not initially as successful, but remarkable progress has been made since 1990, and usage is on the rise. American oak is generally more aggressively flavoured (sharp, strong oak), but selecting one species or a combination of species provides a broad spectrum of aromas and flavours; the same principal in which ingredients and seasonings are used in cooking.

Hungarian Oak is also used. It is noted that such wines as cool-climate Syrah and Gamay Noir respond very well to an aging in Hungarian-oak barrels.

Canadian Oak is under investigation by Dr. Jim Hedges, a physician working in Hamilton and Dr. Mike Risk, a Professor of Biology and Geology at McMaster University and cross-appointed to Brock University. Expectations are high and since initial experimentation began in 1999, appreciation for the unique characteristics of Canadian oak has grown. Check out www.canadianoak.com.

There is no denying the harmony found from in the marriage of oak and wine.

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Volume 15
February 2008
By: Shelley Nielsen

Forest Facts:

Forest covers about 51 percent of Russia's land area.

The taiga (from a Mongolian word meaning "cold jungle") is the world's largest ecosystem, covering most of northern Russia, from the Ural mountains to the Pacific Ocean.

Together with the Brazilian rain forest, the Russian taiga is the major source of oxygen in the planet. The area is extremely susceptible to fire, however, and large sections of the taiga have been lost to the flames throughout the years.

Although not as rich in numbers of different plant species as the tropical forests, Russian taiga forests are home to upwards of 3000 known vascular plant species.

Quote of the Month:

Wherever I go I carry with me, on my body, in my clothing,
the odour of wooden boards."

~~Pablo Neruda
Chilean writer and politician

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Latest News

Our first shipment of OLI-Natura Oil & Wax wood finishes has just arrived.

OLI-NATURA offers a wide range of finishing and care products for interior and exterior applications using high-quality oils and waxes based on natural vegetable oils and nature-related raw materials.

Refinishing your floors?
Looking for greener wood finishes?
Wanting something different?

Try OLI-Natura Today!!
For more information contact: Dominic

Of Interest

A new addition to our warehouse

Accutek Sawyer Horizontal Band Resaw

We can offer you more efficiency and accuracy when resawing your lumber to a minimum thickness of 1/8"; maximum cutting capacity 12" x 12". This band resaw eliminates waste, which means a savings in lumber and dollars for everyone.

Feature Story

MYSTERIES OF THE LAYERD BALTIC BIRCH PLYWOOD

Mystery shrouds our multi-ply Birch principally because it originates in far off places. More often than not, the answer has been a shrug of the shoulders with the comment, "Well it does come from the Baltic States in Russia. Things are different there." And then of course, there was a global shortage of this product earlier last year. In reality,

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was this an affect of global warming, or just another mystery from the enigmatic East. I hope these comments may bring some clarification.

Is 5' x 5' more available than 4' x 8' or vice versa?

Both 5' x 5' and 4' x 8' are more available now than at any time in the last 12 months. The problem we faced last winter of unseasonably warm weather and log shortages has not occurred this winter and all mills have enough raw materials to run at full capacity. The mills still have a very high demand for birch plywood and all mills are trying to sell as much material to either their domestic market and/or to Europe. And while small, it is the European market they receive the highest price from…and of course Europe has a huge advantage due to the strength of the Euro versus the US Dollar. North America is still a viable market for them and we do see more material headed this way, however, even with our record price levels of Russian Birch in North America, it is still below what Europe is able to offer the Russian suppliers. It is industry opinion that we have a much higher chance of the European economy slowing before we see the dollar strengthening.

As for 5' x 5' production versus 4' x 8' production, Russia still produces 75% 5x5 panels vs. 25% in 4x8 or 10x5. This is slowly changing as any new investment in Russia is always in large format presses and peeling lines. This again is geared for the European market. Not only are new investments being made in 4' x 8' lines, but many mills have closed their less profitable 5' x 5' lines as it becomes more profitable to run 4' x 8'. This is due to both the higher price received by selling 4' x 8' and the better efficiency of the new machinery being installed.

Why the global shortage?

The plain and simple answer, warm weather. The ground didn't freeze last winter causing serious havoc in transporation; no movement of raw product, no production of plywood = world shortage. And when production came back on line, Europe offered a more immediate, lucrative market.

Too warm? Too cold? Russia is vunerable to the weather.

Are prices still rising?

The pricing for Russian Birch has momentarily stabilized. It is typically at least a two-month cycle from purchase in Russia to arrival in North America; we are only seeing the November production arriving now. Beyond late spring, we can only wait to see if exchange rates change and/or European demands slow.

Do you see any substitutions popping up?

There are panels from Brazil, and all-Birch panels from China. The problem encountered again and again is that if you have a mill run a product that is truly an equivalent, it always ends up being the same price or more expensive than Russian Birch. There is no dispute that the Russian products offers strength and stability; properties that are hard to replicate in other species.

China has come the closest by offering an all-birch panel. China's advantage is its labour force. The problem China faces is a lack of raw materials; other than the poplar, China imports all of its birch, okoume, obeche, red oak, maple, etc. As for birch, all of it actually comes from Russia. In addition, China has significantly higher transportation costs of logs than the Russian producers. While they can save on labour, it is not enough to compensate for the additional transportation costs of raw material. So inevitably, the Chinese mills look for other ways to save money through thinner faces, inferior glue, and core veneers comprised of very small pieces of veneer that are hand joined. Probably the best replacement for a Russian Birch would be a domestic Birch panel produced here in North America.

Can we foresee the future?

A great question. Customers often tell me that they have to look at other products to use in place of Russian Birch due to the price, or that the Russians are going to lose the U.S. market due to the recent price increases. While these comments may be true in the short term, and we have seen customers in certain industries move to other products, we must all keep in mind that Russia contains 22% of the world's forest area, the next largest forest countries are Brazil with 16%, Canada – 7%, and U.S. – 6%. I believe we have only begun to see the impact Russia will have in the world when it comes to natural resources of any kind.

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Volume 16
April 2008
By: Shelley Nielsen

Forest Facts:

Did you know that the inner bark of the yellow birch (betula Allenghaniensis) tree has the flavour of wintertgreen?

Quote of the Month:

"Study nature,
love nature,
stay close to nature.
It will never fail you."

Frank Lloyd Wright

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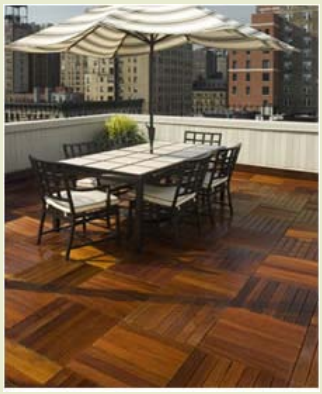
Latest News

New Web Look

Over the past few months we have redeveloped our web site offering a more modern look and improved navigation. We hope you like the new look and feel of our web page.

Please let us know what you think of the changes and any improvements or features you would like to see. Please click here.

Ipê Tiles now $17.75 (limited time)

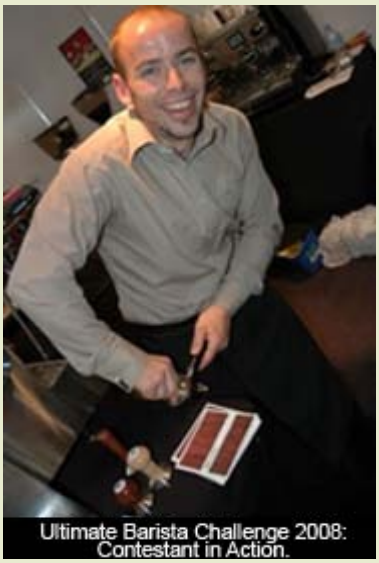


'Tis the season for Ipê Tiles, one of our premiere decking materials. On sale for a limited time. Regularly priced at $18.50 each.

Mention our newsletter for sale pricing.

Tiles are: 2.7 sq ft each, non skid, virtually indestructible, and maintenance free.

Of Interest



Ultimate Barista Challenge 2008: Contestant in Action.

Reg Barber Enterprises Inc. is located on Vancouver Island, off the coast of British Columbia. Reg has been fooling around and designing handcrafted Espresso Coffee Tampers since 1995, and the art of 'tamping' has come a long way.

Check out Reg's website at www.coffeetamper.com for his cool designs and of course there are the International Barista Challenges too, as seen in the side picture. Reg has become a global supporter of all things coffee. His gallery of pictures on the website is nothing short of *coffelicious*.

On a non-coffee and non-wood tangent, Reg has become our local philanthropist but donating his engraving time and skills for Parkland Secondary School's Wall of Inspiration. This is a glass wall display celebrating students since 1973. Thanks Reg!!

Feature Story

'Tis the Season to be Decking

Wood decks are marvellously flexible structures that can be designed and built to suit you, your family and the property you live in. They make great additions to homes of all ages and are superb for businesses like pubs, clubs, hotels and restaurants that want to create an attractive outdoor room for their customers to enjoy.

Market research shows that the popularity of decking and associated landscape structures is growing in leaps and bounds. Wood decks are now an established part of garden design. Anyone who is thinking about creating a deck should ensure that the materials used are fit for this purpose and that the builder knows

what they are doing as properly built decks will provide years of pleasure but it is absolutely crucial, particularly with a raised deck, that the structure is safe and sound after completion. Not new information, but it does merit a timely reminder, and following these guidelines should ensure a lifespan of at least 25+ years.

There is a wide range of species of wood, both hardwoods and softwoods, which are highly suitable for decking. Beyond the usual materials like cedar, there are a growing number of exotic hardwoods, most of which are sustainably harvested, that offer superior advantages over the typical wood decking materials; including those that are pressure-treated. Some of the possibilities: ipê, cumaru, bangkirai. Ipê has a Class A fire rating in the US. The important factor for wood used out of doors is that it is durable enough to resist fungal decay. Some species of wood have a natural ability to resist decay completely; others have varying degrees of natural durability and may require treatment.

Softwoods are used a lot more for decking because it tends to be less costly and easier to work with than hardwoods. However the rich attractive colours of hardwoods add greatly to their appeal, and naturally durable hardwoods are usually higher in density than softwood and their impact and abrasion resistant properties are reasons why they are used on commercial projects that have a lot of heavy use.

The wood should preferably be straight grained and have a moisture content no greater than 20% to reduce the risk of distortion caused when timber with higher moisture levels dries to suit the local conditions. Wood is a natural product and as your deck timbers weather, small cracks are likely to appear on the surface of the boards. These are caused by the intermittent wetting and drying of the wood and are part of the character of wood. They have no structural effect whatsoever. This natural ageing process can be slowed by the annual use of a clear water repellent coating, such as the Oli-Natura Yacht & Teak Oil. Unless a deck is painted with a stain, the original colour of the timber used will fade gradually when exposed to the elements. Whether your deck is made from a deeply coloured hardwood, such as ipê or the more mellow hues of a softwood species, such as Western Red Cedar, both will fade over time to a pleasant silvery grey; using a clear water repellent coating will help to prevent fading.

By far the majority of wood decks, boardwalks and piers built around the world are surfaced with plain timber boards. While grooved deck boards are often marketed as "anti-slip" there is no evidence to suggest that they perform any better or worse than plain decking. Choice of deck board style is therefore a matter of personal preference. A fall of around 1:100 should be built into a deck to help the surface drain and prevent standing water. Grooved deck boards were actually designed to aid water drainage and as such should be laid in the direction of the fall away from any adjoining property. Where there is a higher than normal requirement to prevent the risk of slipperiness, for example on ramps or stairs, then deck boards with built-in abrasive strips can be used.

As with all wood projects, on-going care and maintenance cannot be forgotten or ignored:

- Regularly clean the deck with a brush to remove dirt.
- Occasionally remove mildew, algae and dirt with a pressure hose or deck-cleaning liquid. A stiff brush should remove mildew and algae.
- Once a year, add a clear water repellent.
- Check for damaged boards and replace as necessary.

For more information, contact Danny or Dominic for further information.

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Volume 17
June 2008
By: Shelley Nielsen

Forest Facts:

A 1910 physics book asks: "When a tree falls in a lonely forest, and no animal is nearby to hear it, does it make a sound?

1. *Can something exist without being perceived?* -e.g."Sound is only sound if a person hears it."
2. *Can we assume the unobserved world functions the same as the observed world?* - e.g. "Does observation affect outcome?"
3. *What is the difference between what something is, and how it appears?* - e.g. "Sound is the variation of pressure that propagates through matter as a wave."

Quote of the Month:

"Knowing trees, I understand the meaning of patience. Knowing grass, I can appreciate persistence."

Hal Borland, 1900-1978, American author

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Latest News

Hilford Burton, president of Hilmark Boats Inc. of Campbell River, BC is a survivor.

He survived 22,000 hours as a Canadian bush pilot, two major cancer surgeries and seven years of developing Hilmark boats into a worldwide traditional small boat company. At 12 years of age his father brought an old boat home and with the instructions of "fix it and it's yours ", a lifelong interest in wood boats was born.

A Hilmark boat will most definitely turn heads. She's not just a boat, but a functional work of art. So grab your oars, hoist the sails and turn back time...visit http://www.hilmarkboats.com.

Specials

We are proud to offer this special pricing to our valued Taproot readers. Please remember to mention the taproot in order to receive this pricing.

- Teak - $30.00
- Iroko - $14.00
- Afromosia - $14.00
- Ipe - $5.75 – 8.25 *
- Jatoba - $6.25 – 7.75 *
- Purpleheart - $7.00
- Cumaru - $8.00

* depending on dimensions

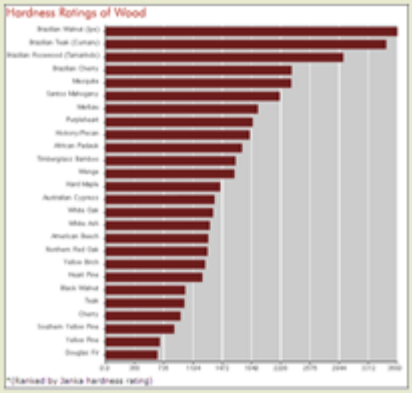
Of Interest

Janka Wood Hardness Rating

Janka, short for the Janka Scale or Janka Hardness Rating, is a way of measuring how hard a species of wood is. The Janka Hardness Chart lists woods by their rating, and has become the industry standard for determining whether a given wood is suitable for flooring material.

A wood's relative hardness is determined by measuring the force required to push a steel ball with a diameter of 11.28 mm (0.444 in) into a piece of wood until half

Ipe: Janka Hardness: 3684
Cumaru: Janka Hardness: 3540
Purpleheart: Janka Hardness: 1860
Teak: Janka Hardness: 1000
Jatoba: Janka Hardness: 2350
Afromosia: Janka Hardness: 1560
Iroko: Janka Hardness: 1260



the diameter of the ball is imbedded. The hardness of wood usually varies with the direction of the grain, but wood is a natural material and every piece is different. The growth patterns of each wood species are influenced by its environment: the sunlight, minerals in the soil, overall climate, and even insects.

Although the higher the Janka rating, the harder the wood, don't mistake hardness for the best wood. Consider both aesthetic and physical properties: texture, grain, and colour, and the wood's durability and stability must all be taken into account.

Feature Story

Looking for a Bird of Another Feather

Teak(*Tectona grandis*)) is considered to be one of the world's most valuable and versatile hardwoods in the marine industry. Valued for its rich lustre and grain, and its unique properties in strength, stability and resistance, teak has been a pillar of the shipbuilding and furniture industries. The decks of the Titanic were covered with teak, and the wood is as good today as that fateful night when she sank on April 15, 1912.

Contrary to popular belief teak is not a tropical rainforest species. Teak is a precious resource. Only four countries in the world: Burma, Thailand, Laos and India have natural teak forests. Teak seeds from Burma have been used to start plantations in Africa and Central & South America; however, teak from these and other regions simply cannot match true Burmese teak. Varying climatic conditions, topography, soil type, drainage, elevation, rainfall length of dry season, result in vast differences in quality, hardness, texture and colour; resulting in an inferior product. We do not consider plantation teak suitable for marine use.

Teak has a high silica content, and it is this mineral that gives traction when walking on a wet deck. Teak does not need paint varnish or oils for protection against the elements, and will develop a lovely silver gray patina over time. The natural resins repel termites, marine borers and resist rot.

While stories abound of rampant deforestation and illegal log trade, Myanmar (formerly Burma) has had a formal forest management plan in place since 1856. Even today, this stringent teak management plan is still in effect; it is Myanmar's human rights violations that are making an impact on international trade.

With an uncertain future ahead, it is timely to consider alternatives. There are many species of wood throughout the world; however, what is significant are those species that are readily available in our local market. Remember that no one species will ever replace the king of woods – teak – and there will always be compromise but consider these options.

Iroko (*Chlorophora excelsa*), called African teak, shares some characteristics to teak. It is a firm, strong wood with a brownish colour and coarse, open grain. It also shares similar machining capabilities due to the similarities in hardness and density, but it does not have the oiliness of teak and is not resistant to decay and termite attack.

Afromosia (*Pericopsis elata*),also called African teak. This species has a pleasing decorative appearance and has long been used as a substitute for teak in Scandinavian-style furniture. It looks a lot like teak but does not have as much figure. It is commonly used in outdoor applications and is resistant to the elements, but will rot and needs constant care outdoors. Avoid contact with ferrous metals in wet situations to avoid corrosion. The tannins in the wood can cause blue stains.

Ipé (*Tabebuia serratifolia*); “e-pay is also known as ironwood, Brazilian walnut and pau lope comes from Central and South America, and the Caribbean. It is typically reddish brown, sometimes with a greenish tinge, often with lighter and/or darker striping; it can look like teak. Sometimes a yellow surface dust, called lapachol, is visible. It is a natural product that is found in quinine, and under research as a cancer preventative. This species is difficult to work and has a severe blunting effect on cutting edges. It has a very high resistance to all insect and fungal attacks, and has a Class “A” fire rating in the US. Concrete and steel are rated the same.

Jatoba (*Hymenaea courbaril*),is sometimes referred to as Brazilian or South American cherry. It is a tan/salmon colour with black accent stripes that over time turns a deep rich red colour. It is a moderately difficult wood to work because of its high density, and is very resistant to termites. There is some suggestion that it is suitable for steam bending, however, be wary of the lumber piles as the wood usually arrives as mixed grain.

Purpleheart (*Peltogyne pubescens*), also known as violetwood, pau roxo and amaranth is deep purple-violet when freshly cut, maturing to a dark brown. It is rather difficult to work with moderate to severe blunting effect on tools; use a sharp carbide blade. It serves well in a marine environment with a high resistance to water.

Cumaru (*Dipteryx odorata*), sometimes known as Brazilian teak, is exceptionally hard and durable. It is a yellowish-brown to light brown colour with a tight, even grain. Unlike most exotics, cumaru undergoes very little colour change in sun light. The wood has excellent weathering possibilities, rated 25 years against decay and insect damage with applications

having longevity of over 50 years.

Some of these woods may have associated health risks causing respiratory illnesses or dermatitis and skin rashes. But don't panic. Simple precautions can reduce health risks, and minimize your exposure. Refer to our Newsletter – Volume 3 for details.

The truth of the matter is that for some projects, there simply are no acceptable substitutes but explore the challenge of using 'new' woods. This gets to the heart of what working wood is all about.

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If youdo not see the graphics below click hereto view in a new window.

THE TAPROOT

WEST WIND HARDWOOD INC.

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Volume 18
August 2008
By: Shelley Nielsen

Forest Facts:

FSC Certfication by Country

Percentage of total Forest area FSC-certified

Canada = 7.6%
USA = 3.3%
Mexico = 1%

Quote of the Month:

"What is the use of a house if you haven't got a tolerable planet to put it on?"

Henry David Thoreau

Links

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Latest News

John Wrobel, our newest member to the West Wind Hardwood team…a little long in the tooth BUT 'young at heart'! He brings a long association with building supply stores with him. John likes to be known as a true Westerner – having lived in our four Western provinces – he has settled in North Saanich with his wife of many years. In his spare time, he can be found tending his small garden and orchard.

Give John a call or email him at john@westwindhardwood.com and give him a warm welcome!!

Specials

Solid Cherry Flooring

Random Widths - Tight Knot

Cherry flooring offers **strength** and **beauty** with a touch of **rustic charm.** If you are searching for the best flooring option and trying to balance appearance and budget, our cherry floor has no equal.

Only $3.59 /sq ft

Enhance the natural beauty of your ***cherry floor*** with our Oli-Natura hard wax oil finish.

Oli-Natura is a responsible choice over traditional polyurethane finishes. For orders greater than 1000 square feet, we will include the necessary finish ($450 value).

More about Oli-Natura Hard Wax Oil

Of Interest

Gone Fishin'

Summer Sun, Blue Skies and Salmon.

The smiles on their faces tell the story. Dom Loiacono (West Wind Hardwood) and Brian Thompson (Griffin Properties) Scott Munt (Goodfellow Inc.) and Greg Miller (Goodfellow Inc.) enjoyed an supplier-sponsered stay at Painter's Lodge in Campbell River - July 11-13, 2008. Thanks for the great time Goodfellow Inc.

Feature Story

"It's Not Easy Being Green" ...said Kermit™ the Frog

Responsible forest management is managing a living organism. The intention is that this organism shall continue to grow and live, not die or be damaged. However, there are challenges in being "green".

To help users, specifiers and purchasers locate forest products that are of a legal origin from a truly sustainably managed forest, a number of traceable processes have developed but it's a veritable jungle. Many of these certification plans have developed as alternatives to FSC, which, by some industry sectors, is regarded as being too stringent. FSC is the only certificate which is used and recognized worldwide. Refer to Newsletter - Vol. 1 - Feature Story: Growing Green.

	FSC	FSC CW*	PEFC	CSA	SFI	CERFLOR	MTCC	OLB	VLO	SMARTSTEP**	GF (IBAMA)	GFC
Is the scheme based on a set of clear minimum performancebased thresholds?	•	•										
Does the scheme require balanced participation in standard-setting process?	•	•		•					•			(•)
Does the certification scheme certify at Forest Management Unit level?	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•		
Are field visits required?	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•		
Is consultation of stakeholders in certification process required?	•	•		•			•			•		
Is annual monitoring of certified areas required?	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•		
Is the scheme transparent (i.e. are standards and summary reports freely available on websites)?	•	•		•		•	•		•	•		
Is there a label and well defined CoC available?	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•		(•)
Does the scheme prohibit the conversion of forests to plantations or other land uses?	•	•								•		
Does the scheme prohibit use of Genetically Modified Organism trees?	•	•								•		
Does the scheme ensure that harvesting does not threaten High Conservation Value Forests?	•	•								•		
Does the scheme take social aspects of the forest management into account (e.g. rights of indigious people and forest workers)?	•	•								•		
Does the scheme prove legal origin?	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	(•)	(•)

The easiest way for the consumer to navigate through the reams of information is self-education. The article: Footprints in the Forest, February 2004 - compiled by FERN is a clear report on forest certifications.

Consider the reality when planning forest product purchases:

1. Seasonal Changes in Availability. Weather has a major influence on harvest; often limiting accessibility. Logging operations are now taking into consideration animal and bird breeding seasons.

2. Scarcity of the More Popular Species. Natural forest are typically a mix of species, and since only a certain percentage of any given species can be harvested, availability of the more popular can be limited.

3. Use of Lesser Known Species. With a natural mix of species in forests, and a decrease in harvest of the popular species, the lesser known species (LKS) become of interest; utilizing more species becomes invaluable to the harvester.

4. Delivery Times and Limited Stocks. Delays are common. Delivery time from forest to consumer does vary, and is often up to 8-10 months. As importers typically stock a significantly lower quantity of certified species, difficulties with supply should be expected.

5. Higher Prices. The economics of short supply of the 'less available' popular species translates into higher prices. Certified suppliers are caught between a rock and a hard place when buyers end up placing more emphasis on price over product.

To successfuly obtain forest products from a truly sustainably managed forest follow these three simple steps:

1. Plan well in advance.

2. Specify FSC-certified products.

3. Be flexible.

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