

INFORMATION SHEET

MACROCARPA



Common names: Macrocarpa, Monterey Cypress

Botanical name: *Cupressus macrocarpa*

APPEARANCE AND DESCRIPTION:

- Macrocarpa is a low- to medium-density softwood that looks and works like kauri.
- Macrocarpa can be used both structurally and decoratively.
- The heartwood is golden brown and has a speckled lustre, which is rare in timber.

PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS

Durability:

- Both the heartwood and sapwood of macrocarpa are naturally borer resistant (*Anobium*) for interior housing purposes.
- The heartwood is moderately durable for above-ground purposes, but the sapwood is non-durable.
- The timber cannot be pressure treated with copper, chromium and arsenic (CCA), but sapwood can be boron diffusion treated to resist insects (but not decay).

MECHANICAL PROPERTIES:

Density at 12 percent moisture content	543 kg/m ³
Modulus of elasticity	5.79 GPa
Bending strength	87.8 MPa
Compression strength parallel to the grain	44.6 MPa
Shear strength parallel to the grain	12.7 MPa
Side hardness (refers to indentation)	3.44 kN
End hardness	4.50 kN
Tangential shrinkage – green to 12 percent moisture content	3.3%
Radial shrinkage – green to 12 percent moisture content	1.6%

MACHINING:

Macrocarpa has a fine grain and machines and sands well to give a high-quality finish.

GLUING AND COATING CONSIDERATIONS:

Macrocarpa, when dry, will accept a variety of paints, oils, two pot resins and varnishes.

SUSTAINABILITY:

- Macrocarpa supplied in New Zealand is grown within New Zealand as an exotic tree. Most timber comes from farm shelterbelts. The species is also developing as a plantation crop.
- Supplies of good-quality timber are increasing, either milled to specific requirements, or available from specialist suppliers as finished products.
- Supply of timber milled to larger sizes is limited in certain parts of the country, and sizes larger than 150 x 50 mm can be difficult to source.

For suppliers of Macrocarpa, visit the vendor's database on the NZ Wood website:
www.nzwood.co.nz

Or contact your local branch of the New Zealand Farm Forestry Association:
www.nzffa.org.nz