

# INFORMATION SHEET

## RIMU



**Common name:** Rimu  
**Botanical name:** *Dacrydium cupressinum*

### WHY USE RIMU?

Rimu is one of the most used and most popular of our native timbers. Due to being used extensively in our older character homes as both a structural and finishing timber, it is probably our best known native species. Rimu has been proven as a remarkably versatile and exceptionally beautiful timber. In recent years there has been a revival in popularity of recycled rimu for mouldings and trim in renovated buildings, and it remains a very popular furniture timber. Good supplies of recycled rimu from demolition timber yards are available from a range of suppliers, and also rimu timber sourced from sustainably managed forests.

### APPEARANCE AND DESCRIPTION:

The heartwood timber varies in colour from dark reddish brown to yellowish brown, with irregular streaks. The sapwood is a uniform pale brown.

### PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS

#### Durability:

Rimu has moderate durability, with the heartwood (class 3) more durable than the sapwood (class 4).

#### Mechanical Properties:

Density at 12% moisture content	519 kg/m <sup>3</sup>
Modulus of elasticity	9.65 GPa
Modulus of rupture	85.6 MPa
Shear strength parallel to grain	10.56 MPa
Compression strength parallel to grain	39.15 MPa
Side Hardness	3.62 kN
Tangential shrinkage – green to 12% MC	4.4 %
Radial Shrinkage – green to 12% MC	2.5 %

#### Machining:

Rimu is an excellent finishing timber, it turns well, and will allow a high-class finish.

#### Gluing and coating considerations:

Rimu takes coatings very well, and is easily glued and finished.

### **SUSTAINABILITY:**

- All available supplies of rimu in New Zealand are required to be managed to exacting standards under detailed long term Sustainable Management Plans and Permits that are registered against the land. Rimu is harvested under such sustainable forest management plans and permits approved by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. This guarantees availability of a sustainable supply for future generations.
- Up until the 1990's over half of all native timber produced in New Zealand was sawn rimu. There are still reasonable supplies of sapwood available in most sizes, but the availability of the high quality heartwood and coloured grades is diminishing rapidly.
- Rimu timber harvested in the past eras is now becoming available from the demolition of older building stock. These are a good source of quality heartwood timber, and can be machined and reused as quality furniture, flooring and joinery.

**For suppliers of rimu visit the vendor's database on the NZ Wood website:  
[www.nzwood.co.nz](http://www.nzwood.co.nz)**