

INFORMATION SHEET

TAWA



Common name: Tawa

Botanical name: *Beilschmiedia tawa*

WHY USE TAWA?

Tawa is an excellent furniture timber, its strength properties make it suitable for handles and rods, and very good for turnery across the grain such as in door knobs. Tawa has always been a specialty timber, and it has long had a reputation in both islands as a utility and joinery timber in the style of silver beech. Its qualities are under-rated, and it is picked to rise in demand as sustainable supplies became increasingly available.

APPEARANCE AND DESCRIPTION:

Logs under 35cm diameter are uniformly white throughout, although logs of greater diameter exhibit an irregular pathological zone of 'black heart' in the inner core of the tree, which follows the taper of the tree.

PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS

Durability:

Both the heartwood and sapwood are non-durable.

MECHANICAL PROPERTIES:

Tawa is a high density, very strong timber.

Density at 12% moisture content (MC)	720kg/m ³ *
Modulus of elasticity	13.2 GPa
Modulus of rupture	114 MPa
Shear strength parallel to grain	12 MPa
Compression strength parallel to grain	32 MPa
Side Hardness	4.0 kN
Tangential shrinkage – green to 12% MC	6.7 %
Radial Shrinkage – green to 12% MC	3.4%

*(637-780 kg/m³)

MACHINING:

Tawa is an excellent finishing timber, and useful for across grain turning. The contrast between white and black colouration can be used to good effect.

GLUING AND COATING CONSIDERATIONS:

Tawa can be stained and polished readily.

SUSTAINABILITY:

- All available supplies of tawa 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. Tawa 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.
- The use of sustainably managed tawa is a positive alternative to using less sustainably managed timbers such as imported hardwoods, and illegally logged rainforest.

Visit the vendor's database on the NZ Wood website to locate suppliers of Tawa:
www.nzwood.co.nz