

DESCRIPTION AND DISPLAY OF WOODS DRIED IN THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AREA

Southern California Lumber Seasoning Association

The Southern California Lumber Seasoning Association wishes to show the various West Coast Kiln Club members a small portion of the hardwoods and softwoods, both imported and domestic that are dried in Southern California. In the lobby of the hotel you no doubt have seen the display of these woods.

The following is a short discussion of some of these woods to give you an idea of what they are like. We hope you will find it very interesting.

- LIMBAU** - Origin: West Africa, Belgian Congo, Nigeria. Tall, straight trees, 120' to 160' in height; 3' to 5' in diameter above buttresses. Resembles light Oak. Weight average 2800# at 12%MC, green 4500#. During seasoning heart or brashwood subject to splits and shakes. No trouble with close-ringed uppers. Small shrinkage. Approximately same drying schedule as Pacific Coast Alder and Maple. This governed, as usual, by initial MC's, type of kiln, etc. Principal uses are furniture, light duty flooring and cabinet work.
- VIROLA** - Origin: N.W. Coast Columbia, South America, Central America. Tall straight trees, scattered. Average 4' in diameter. Light soft wood resembling Philippine Luauns. In air drying, wood subject to split, checks and honey-combing. Same in kiln drying using too severe a schedule. Suggest low temperatures and close spreads from green to 12% MC. Weight green 4000#, at 12% MC 2750#. Uses - furniture, drawer bottoms and sides.
- RAMIN** - Origin: Sarawak, N. W. Borneo, Malaya. Medium-sized trees, approximately 80' high, clear bole and diameter 18" to 2'. Weight green 5000#, at 12% MC 3450#. Straight grain, fine and even textured and shallowly interlocked, light colored, pale or oatmealed sap and heartwood. Seasons well with practically no warp or twist, but subject to slight surface checks and splits if not carefully handled and proper kiln schedules used. Similar characteristics to our Beech and used in furniture, light flooring and cabinet work.
- PRIMA VERA** - Origin: Central America. Large trees often 4' in diameter. Incorrectly sometimes called White Mahogany. Color yellowish-white to yellowish-brown, fairly light medium to coarse texture. Weight green 3900#, at 12% MC 2550#. Straight fine grain, seasons well. Principal uses are in furniture.
- CATIVO** - Origin: South America, N. W. and Central America. Fairly light, soft, straight, interlocked grain, medium texture. Weight green 3300# to 3500#, at 12% MC 2400#. No difficulty in seasoning with proper schedules. Used in cabinet and furniture products.
- ANDIROBA** - Origin: British Guiana, South America, Central America. Resembles mahogany (also known as Crabwood or Brazilian Mahogany). Straight grain sometimes interlocked. Seasons fairly well but slowly. Mild schedules must be used in initial run, timber has tendency to split and warp. Low shrinkage value. Uses - joinery, cabinet, furniture.

- IMBUYA - Origin: Brazil. Sometimes called Brazilian Walnut. Color yellowish to chocolate brown. Fairly hard and heavy with straight, wavy or curly grain. Weight green 5000#, at 12% MC 3750#. Uses are furniture and cabinet work.
- BALSA WOOD - Origin: Central America. Trees are of rapid growth, often to 70' in seven or eight years with diameters up to 2'. Weight green 2500# and at 6% MC 600#. Subject to seasoning splits, warps easily requiring great care in drying. Due to the great variety of weights encountered, different kiln schedules are in order. It is the lightest, softest and weakest commercial timber. Uses vary widely including insulating purposes, fairings in aeroplanes, model and toy aeroplanes, life belts, packing for armorplate in battleships, etc.
- PARANA PINE - Origin: Principally from Brazil. Varigated brown with occasional red streaks. Variable in weight and hardness. Straight grain, good texture. Tall, straight trees developing much clears. Seasons fairly well with moderate schedules but considerable compression grain exists in the wood. Weights green 3500#, at 12% MC 2750#. It is used for mouldings and furniture frames.
- MESQUITE - Origin: Southwest Desert area US. Small trees 8" to 10" similar to Walnut in drying and similar uses such as gun stocks. Low heat schedules with high humidity. Coarse texture with irregular grain and is easy to work. Weights green 6500#, at 12% 4500#.
- JAP WOODS - Sen (Ash), Tana (Brown Ash), Asada (Cherry), Birch, Katsura (Poplar), Shina (Basswood), Oak. They have about the same drying characteristics as our domestic species.
- UJUSTE - Origin: Salvador. Subject to checking in lower EMC areas. Hard texture with whitish-yellow in color. Warps readily. Weight green 5000#, at 12% 3600#.

Display samples courtesy of Tropical & Western Lumber Co., Los Angeles, California.