

Vitex



Vitex · *Vitex cofassus*

Recommended Uses (Major/specific)



Building Construction (F27).



Flooring & staircase materials.



Exterior joinery; including posts, poles, decking, gazebos, pergolas.



Furniture; including outdoor garden furniture.



Boat building; including ribs, planking, decking.



Engineering; including wharves, bridges.

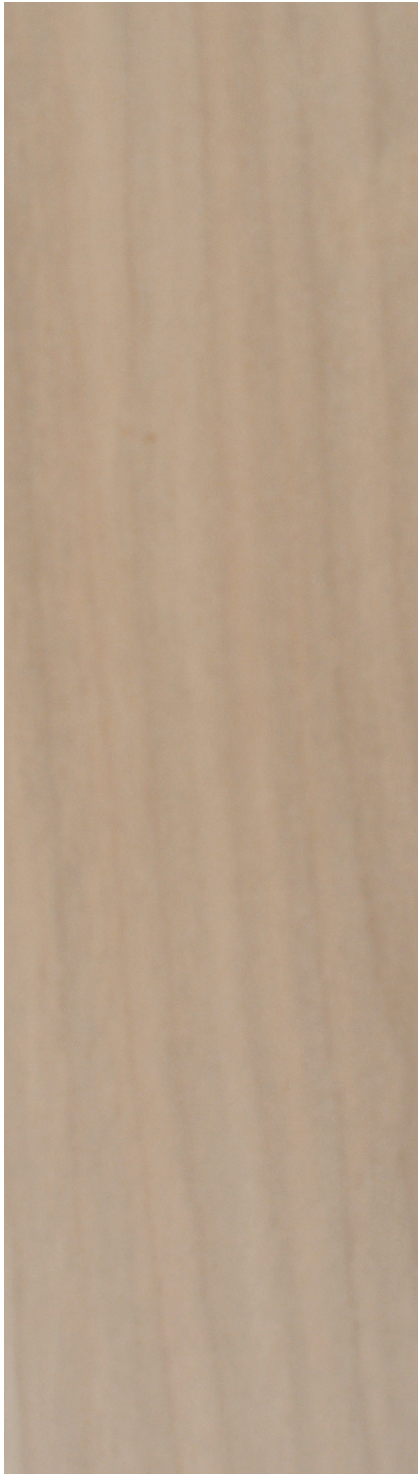
Vitex is a major commercial species of the Solomon Islands. A medium sized to large tree found throughout the South West Pacific region but of more common occurrence in the North Solomons and the Solomon Islands.

- **Vitex** produces a beautiful olive-grey wood with an attractive banded or striped pattern on quarter-sawn faces. Often referred to as **New Guinea teak**, having similar properties and uses to that of **teak** (*Tectona grandis*), and belonging to the same family of Verbenaceae. Many trees are of relatively poor form, being heavily fluted in the bole, thus minimising sawn recovery. The wood is distinctly greasy to the touch.
- It is held in high esteem throughout the Solomons where it has been used for many years, to make the large Kundu-type message drums, due its magnificent acoustics and wearing ability.
- The timber seasons very slowly with little degrade. Quarter-sawing is preferable for drying and a variety of end uses as well as for aesthetic reasons.
- An extremely popular timber, held in high regard for boat-building due to its durability, strength, excellent steam bending and working properties. Suitable for high quality joinery, flooring, decking, window sills, staircase materials and carving.

Other names:

Trade Names: **New Guinea teak**

Local Name: **vasa**

Vitex · *Vitex cofassus***PROPERTIES**

Density	700 – 800kg/m ³ @12% m.c
Colour	Pale yellowish-brown to greyish, olive-brown.
Texture	Fine and even; slightly lustrous.
Grain	Sometimes straight but usually interlocked.
Figure	Distinct striped or ribbon figure on quarter sawn faces.
Durability	Durable.
Permeability	Heartwood, impermeable to pressure impregnation.
Lyctid susceptibility	Resistant.

WORKABILITY

General	Good working and finishing properties, where there are no grain irregularities.
Sawing	Readily sawn.
Planing	Good planing characteristics with the grain.
Blunting	Low.
Boring	Excellent characteristics.
Turning	Very good characteristics finishing with sharp arrises.
Nailing	Nails well, pre-drilling advisable to prevent splitting on board ends.
Gluing	Care required due to natural greasiness of wood.
Finishing	Works and sands to a smooth finish; takes an excellent polish.

MECHANICAL PROPERTIES

Strength	SD3 (seasoned).
Structural Grade	F27 (select grade).
Toughness (Izod)	7.3J (seasoned), 15J (unseasoned).
Hardness (Janka)	5.6kN (seasoned), 5.1kN (unseasoned).
Max. Crushing Strength	64 MPa (seasoned), 42 MPa (unseasoned).
Modulus of Elasticity	14 GPa (seasoned), 12 GPa (unseasoned).
Modulus of Rupture	133 MPa (seasoned), 80 MPa (unseasoned).

SEASONING

General	Seasons slowly, but well, with little degrade. Preferable to preliminary air dry prior to kiln drying. A high humidity equalizing treatment should be applied at end of drying cycle.
Movement	Medium.
Shrinkage	Medium.

KILN DRYING SCHEDULE

'T' (mm)	'S.P'	M.C CHANGE POINTS	DBT (°C)	WBD (°C)	K.D TIME TO 12%	
					FROM GREEN (days)	FROM 25% (days)
25	M	Green	55	5		
			60	8		
			65	10		
			65	15		
		20-final	70	20	10-12	6-8