

# Afzelia Burl

**Commercial Name:** Afzelia Burl

**Scientific Name:** Afzelia quanzensis

**Other Names:** Doussie, Apa, Aligna, Mkora, Mkola, Chanfuta, Mupapa, Pod mahogany, Hlafuta

**Geographical Origin:** West, Central and East Africa

**General Characteristics:** color is creamy peach to golden yellow to reddish orange; medium to coarse texture with interlocked, irregular grain with distinctive curly figure; low to medium luster; creamy white to yellowish mineral deposits are common; variable to slow drying with some checking

**The Tree:** large deciduous tree with a height range of 80 to 100 feet with clear boles 30 to 50 feet, sometimes with large buttresses; trunk diameters are 3 to 5 feet; large spreading crown with somewhat drooping branches; greenish to light gray bark with regular flaking; alternating compound leaves with 4 to 6 pairs of leaflets and glossy sheen; drought resistant but intolerant to water-logging

**Uses:** cabinet making, figured veneer, turnery; decorative woodwork, boat building, flooring, musical instruments

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**Geographical Origin:** West, Central and East Africa

**General Characteristics:** color is creamy peach to golden yellow to orange; medium to coarse texture; "snakeskin" effect created by the interlocking of grain produced by a distortion of the growing process(also referred to as "fiddleback"); low to medium luster; creamy white to yellowish mineral deposits are common; variable to slow drying with some checking

**The Tree:** large deciduous tree with a height range of 80 to 100 feet with clear boles 30 to 50 feet, sometimes with large buttresses; trunk diameters are 3 to 5 feet; large spreading crown with somewhat drooping branches; greenish to light gray bark with regular flaking; alternating compound leaves with 4 to 6 pairs of leaflets and glossy sheen; drought resistant but intolerant to water-logging

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# Ambonya Burl

**Commercial Name:** Ambonya Burl

**Scientific Name:** Pterocarpus indicus

**Other Names:** Narra, Angsana, Sena, New Guinea rosewood, Burma rosewood

**Geographical Origin:** Philippines, Borneo, New Guinea, Burma, Malay Archipelago

**General Characteristics:** color is light yellow to golden or reddish brown to a distinctive red; texture is moderately fine to moderately coarse; grain is interlocked and sometimes wavy producing attractive figure particularly in burls and for slicing veneers; moderately lustrous; seasons well with little degradation, such as warping and checking

**The Tree:** a large, deciduous shade tree with a height range of 100 feet or more and trunk diameters ranging from 3 to 5 feet above high, wide-spreading buttresses; a large, drooping crown similar to that of the Weeping Willow; leaves are shiny dark green and feather-like; Narra is the National Tree of the Philippines

**Uses:** turnery, carving, veneers, flooring, musical instruments, furniture

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# Black Palm

**Commercial Name:** Black Palm

**Scientific Name:** *Borassus flabellifer*

**Other Names:** Palmyra palm, Toddy palm, Sugar palm, Cambodiam palm,

**Geographical Origin:** Australia, Southeast Asia, South America, South Africa

**General Characteristics:** color is tan to dark brown to almost black with distinctive black and white flecks; available mostly in small dimensions as most of the usable wood from this species must be taken from the hardened outer annual rings

**The Tree:** a woody monocot (angiosperm), this classification also includes bamboo; one of the six species of fan palms which can grow or 100 feet or more; a very hardy species which can live for 100 years or more; the bark is grayish brown and darkens higher up on the tree; economically, a very important species for the rural poor due to it's capability of producing an abundant array of food, fuel and raw materials; toddy, a sugary sap can be extracted from the young inflorescence of the fruit to concoct a beverage called arrack; tradition holds that hunting spears were constructed from the heart of the tree

**Uses:** knife handles, turnery, jewelry, decorative woodwork

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# Blackwood (African)

**Commercial Name:** Blackwood (African)

**Scientific Name:** Dalbergia melanoxylon

**Other Names:** Mufunjo, Mpingo, Mozambique ebony, Grenadilla, Congowood, Senegal ebony, Mukelete, Dialambam

**General Characteristics:** True rosewood whose color is dark purplish brown or black with very dark streaks; fine and even texture with slightly oily feel; straight grain with low luster

Note: "Black and White" Blackwood is sold with the heartwood and the clearly demarcated sapwood, which is generally narrow and yellowish in color

**The Tree:** A many-branched, multi-stemmed savannah (a coarse-grassed plain with scattered tree growth) deciduous tree with a height range of 25-50 feet; a short, narrow trunk, 1-2 feet in diameter which is rarely cylindrical and often fluted; smooth, pale gray bark which will sometimes peel off in strips; will grow in agriculturally-deprived landscapes and will intertwine with other trees; the National Tree of Tanzania; the Tree of Music (its oily nature and high tolerance to climactic changes makes it highly valued in the manufacture of woodwind instruments)

**Uses:** Highly valued in ornamental turnery, woodwind instruments, brush backs, knife and tool handles, inlay work

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# Bloodwood

**Commercial Name:** Bloodwood

**Scientific Name:** Brosimum rubescens

**Other Names:** Cardinalwood, Satine rubane, Muirapiranga

**Geographical origin:** Central and South America

**General Characteristics:** deep red or pale reddish brown heartwood; darkens with age; fine textured with straight to interlocked grain; moderate difficulty in drying as bloodwood is prone to checking and warping depending on grain direction; sold in small dimensioned logs which limits its commercial use

**The tree:** a large deciduous tree with a height range of 120-130 feet and trunk diameters of 30 to 40 inches; the trunks have no buttresses and are straight, cylindrical and can be clear for 75 feet; smooth bark and broad-based, elliptical leaves

**Uses:** veneers, decorative inlays, turnery, and small work

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# Bocote

**Commercial Name:** Bocote

**Scientific Name:** Cordia gerascanthus

**Other Names:** Canalete, Anachuite, Baria, Cupane, Amapa asta, Louro pardo

**Geographical Origin:** Mexico, West Indies, Central America, South America, northern Florida

**General Characteristics:** Heartwood is tobacco colored to reddish to dark brown with irregular black streaks; heartwood is clearly distinguishable from the grayish to yellowy sapwood; fine to medium oily texture with variable luster; grain is straight to variable; difficult to dry, being subject to surface checking and end splitting; distinctive ray fleck figure when quarter-sawn

**The Tree:** A small to large deciduous canopy tree which can reach a height of 120 feet and up to 4 feet in diameter; a straight cylindrical bole emanating from narrow buttresses. In Mexico the tree is often found in tropical dry zones

**Uses:** Turnery, rifle stocks, fine furniture, brush backs, or humidors

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# Box Elder

**Commercial Name:** Box Elder

**Scientific Name:** *Acer negundo*

**Other Names:** Box elder maple; Maple ash; Ashleaf maple, Manitoba maple

**Geographical Origin:** Canada, United States

**General Characteristics:** color is whitish yellow to creamy to pale brown; distinctive coral red streaking from a soluble pigment caused by fungi which usually appear as the tree is dying; the lightest of the American maple family with low strength properties; a soft, porous wood with close even grain; seasons well with little distortion; often combined with soft maples for trade purposes

**The Tree:** a small to medium-sized deciduous tree with a height range of 35 to 74 feet and trunk diameters up to 3.5 feet; it is fast-growing but short-lived; the scaly bark is pale-gray to light brown with broad ridges; the short trunk can divide into several irregularly-shaped limbs forming dense thickets and a well rounded crown; the compound leaves of 3 to 7 leaflets; grows abundantly in many areas of the U.S. and other parts of North America

**Uses:** millwork, boxes and crates, turnery, concealed parts for furniture and musical instruments

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**Geographical Origin:** Canada, United States

**General Characteristics:** color is whitish yellow to creamy to pale brown; distinctive coral red streaking from a soluble pigment caused by fungi which usually appear as the tree is dying; the lightest of the American maple family with low strength properties; a soft, porous wood with close even grain; seasons well with little distortion; often combined with soft maples for trade purposes

**The Tree:** a small to medium-sized deciduous tree with a height range of 35 to 74 feet and trunk diameters up to 3.5 feet; it is fast-growing but short-lived; the scaly bark is pale-gray to light brown with broad ridges; the short trunk can divide into several irregularly-shaped limbs forming dense thickets and a well rounded crown; the compound leaves of 3 to 7 leaflets; grows abundantly in many areas of the U.S. and other parts of North America

**Uses:** millwork, boxes and crates, turnery, concealed parts for furniture and musical instruments

**Handcrafted by:** \_\_\_\_\_

# Box Elder

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# Buckeye (burl)

**Commercial Name:** Buckeye (Burl)

**Scientific Name:** Aesculus glabra

**Other Names:** Ohio buckeye, Fetid buckeye, Stinking buckeye, Horse chestnut

**Geographical Origin:** Pennsylvania west to Michigan and Nebraska; south to Alabama west Oklahoma and Texas

**General Characteristics:** color is white to cream to tan with some brown streaking; very fine texture with straight to wavy grain with moderately high luster; unpleasant odor when newly worked; dries fairly well with little distortion but some checking and splitting; subject to fungal infestation and disease

**The tree:** a small to medium-sized deciduous tree with a height range of 35 to 70 feet with trunk diameters up to 24 inches; it is shade tolerant and generally does not grow in pure stands but as individual trees over a wide area particularly in bottomlands and stream banks; Ohio Buckeye is the State Tree of Ohio

**Uses:** turnery (highly figured), carving, crates and boxes, utilitarian wood ware

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# Burmese Rosewood

**Commercial Name:** Burmese Rosewood

**Scientific Name:** Dalbergia oliveri

**Other Names:** Burma pallsander, Burma tulipwood, Tamalan, Neang nuon

**Geographical Origin:** Myanmar (Burma), Laos, Thailand

**General Characteristics:** a true rosewood whose color is orange red to cranberry to reddish brown with some dark streaking; medium texture with straight to interlocked grain

**The Tree:** a deciduous tree with a height range of 50 to 100 feet whose trunk and branches form a distinctive elevated crown with broadly-winged green pods

**Uses:** turnery, furniture, flooring, musical instruments, brush backs and handles

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# Coolibah (burl)

**Commercial Name:** Coolibah (Burl)

**Scientific Name:** Eucalyptus microtheca

**Other Names:** Coolabah

**Geographical Origin:** Australia

**General Characteristics:** color is red to reddish dark brown; interlocking grain

**The Tree:** a small evergreen deciduous tree rarely more than 50 feet tall but the spread of the crown will often equal it's height; the rough bark is whitish to dark gray and often deeply furrowed; is fast growing and can be single or multi-trunked; the dull, blue-green leaves are compound with alternate leaflets; can grow in arid and semi-arid landscapes; well-known for being included in the lyrics of the Australian folksong, "Waltzing Matilda" ("Under the shade of the coolibah tree")

**Uses:** turnery, veneer, decorative woodwork

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# Cocobolo

**Commercial Name:** Cocobolo

**Scientific Name:** Dalbergia retusa

**Other Names:** Granadillo, Funera, Nambar, Nicaragua Rosewood

**Geographical Origin:** Central America, Mexico

**General Characteristics:** A true rosewood whose color varies from yellowish orange, to deep-red, or reddish brown with prominent black streaks and some mottling with exposure; fine texture with grain straight to interlocked; oily texture with low luster; subject to warping and checking during the drying process; its sawdust can produce a severe rash similar to poison ivy

**The Tree:** A small to medium-sized deciduous canopy tree, 45 to 60 feet in height with trunk diameter of 20 to 24 inches; usually of poor, irregular form, varying from low and spreading to high and straight; however, it is the most irregular formations which yield the most highly figures wood; the leaves are compound with nine alternating leaflets

**Uses:** Turnery and decorative woodwork; a very important wood for use in the cutlery trades such as knife handles; also used in the manufacturing of tool handles, musical and scientific instruments, due in part to its excellent polishing properties

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# Ebony

**Commercial Name:** Ebony

**Scientific Name:** Diospyros spp.

**Other Names:** Gabon ebony, Africa ebony, Mgiriti, Omenowa, Billetwood

**Geographical Origin:** Equatorial West Africa, Nigeria, Congo

**General Characteristics:** Color is uniform jet-black to black-brown with occasional greenish streaking; fine texture with grain straight to slightly interlocked or curly; sawdust may cause skin irritation; the wood is often imitated by the use of black stains or dyes

**The Tree:** A deciduous tree with an average height range is 50 to 60 feet with trunk diameters up to 2 feet; a slow-growing tree with a buttressed, rough, often fluted and flaking bark ; simple, oval leaves and leathery texture; produces a small, round or oval shaped fruit

**Uses:** Turnery, inlaid work, handles for cutlery and tools, parts for musical instruments, brush backs

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# Goncolo Alves

**Commercial Name:** Goncalo Alves

**Scientific Name:** Astronium graveolens

**Other Names:** Zorrowood, Tigerwood, Mura, Pal de culebra, Glassywood, Bossona

**Geographical Origin:** Mexico, Central America, South America

**General Characteristics:** heartwood of dramatic contrasts of light golden brown to russet or reddish brown with variegated spacing of dark brown or black streaks which produces a beautiful striped or mottled figure similar to some rosewoods; fine to medium texture with wavy to interlocked grain and dull to medium luster; a difficult species to dry, being prone to warping and checking should be dried slowly

**The Tree:** a large canopy or sub-canopy deciduous tree which can attain a maximum height of 120 feet and a diameter range of 24 to 40 inches; it had a clear cylindrical trunk for two-thirds of its height above 4 to 6 foot buttress flanges; light to dark gray rough bark; the leaves are spirally-arranged with 5 to 15 pairs of leaflets

**Uses:** turnery, veneer, decorative woodwork, boatbuilding, flooring, shutters and bobbins, knife handles, dampers in grand pianos

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# Kingwood

**Commercial Name:** Kingwood

**Scientific Name:** Dalbergia cearensis

**Other Names:** Violetwood, Violette, Marnut (not a true rosewood)

**Geographical Origin:** Brazil

**General Characteristics:** A true rosewood with color exhibiting alternating layers of subtle yellow-brown to violet brown to dark, deep purple with almost black streaks; low to medium luster; fine uniform texture; a stable wood after seasoning; small dimensioned lumber due to relatively short and narrow stature of the tree; suitably named the “wood of kings” for its beauty

**The Tree:** A small deciduous tree, not usually more than 50 feet in height and 10-12 inches in diameter with a smooth outer bark; native to a small area of Brazil.

**Uses:** Turnery, billiard cues, inlay, veneers, fine furniture and often found in French furniture

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# Koa

**Commercial Name:** Koa

**Scientific Name:** Acacia koa

**Other Names:** Hawaiian Mahogany, Koa-ka

**Geographical Origin:** Hawaiian Islands

**General Characteristics:** Color is reddish to dark brown with irregular dark brown streaks exhibiting a golden luster; fine textured with interlocked, wavy or curly grain which produces a fiddleback figure; the best known wood species in Hawaii

**The Tree:** A very hardy deciduous tree which can survive under a wide-range of environmental conditions but grows best in areas of abundant rainfall; can attain a height of 75 to 100 feet with trunk diameters of 3 to 4 feet; trees that grow at higher, exposed elevations produce the most highly figured wood, particularly fiddleback; characterized by early-growth compound leaves that transition into simple, sickle-shaped leaves which allow for increase passage of sunlight to lower parts of the tree

**Uses:** Traditionally, Koa has been used in the manufacture of dug-out canoes and musical instruments due to its exceptional tonal properties; turnery, carving, high-end cabinet work

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**Other Names:** Hawaiian Mahogany, Koa-ka

**Geographical Origin:** Hawaiian Islands

**General Characteristics:** Color is reddish to dark brown with irregular dark brown streaks exhibiting a golden luster; fine textured with interlocked, wavy or curly grain which produces a fiddleback figure; the best known wood species in Hawaii

**The Tree:** A very hardy deciduous tree which can survive under a wide-range of environmental conditions but grows best in areas of abundant rainfall; can attain a height of 75 to 100 feet with trunk diameters of 3 to 4 feet; trees that grow at higher, exposed elevations produce the most highly figured wood, particularly fiddleback; characterized by early-growth compound leaves that transition into simple, sickle-shaped leaves which allow for increase passage of sunlight to lower parts of the tree

**Uses:** Traditionally, Koa has been used in the manufacture of dug-out canoes and musical instruments due to its exceptional tonal properties; turnery, carving, high-end cabinet work

**Handcrafted by:** \_\_\_\_\_



# Lignum vitae

**Commercial Name:** Lignum vitae (“the wood of life”)

**Scientific Name:** Guaiacum officinale

**Other Names:** Guaiacum wood, Guayacan, Ironwood; Palo Santo; Vera Amarillo

**Geographical Origin:** West Indies, Central America, northern South America, Florida

**General Characteristics:** heartwood exhibits a greenish-brown color with very dark, somewhat black streaks; very fine texture and interlocked grain; can be brittle and is subject to checking; it has a low luster and a waxy or oily feel to it due to its high resin content; very dense and often considered the hardest wood in the world, thus the term “Ironwood” (however, the “ironwood label is often applied to the densest wood in a particular geographical area, so consequently there are many ironwoods in the world); generally, not sold in lumber form but by the pound in a multitude of shapes and sizes

**The Tree:** a small, deciduous tree with a height range of 20-30 feet and diameter range of 10-30 inches; the trunk is often irregularly shaped; the bark is light brown, smooth and sometimes deeply furrowed which regularly peels off; the knotty branches unfurl a close growing, dense compact crown; the oval leaves contain several pairs of leaflets which vary in size and are smooth, leathery textured

**Uses:** due to its oily texture and self-lubricating properties, lignuvitae has proven to be a valuable material where lubrication is difficult, such as propeller shaft bearings and bushings on ships; also, used in many other industrial applications as it can withstand pressure up to 2,000 psi; various other uses in turnery, mallets, wheels, blocks, and at one time was used in the manufacture of bowling balls

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*Mallee (burl)*

**Commercial Name:** Mallee (Burl)

**Scientific Name:** Eucalyptus calycogona

**Other Names:** Red mallee, Gooseberry mallee, Square-fruited mallee

**Geographical Origin:** Australia, New Guinea, Indonesia

**General Characteristics:** brilliant, deep red with wavy, interlocking grain

**The Tree:** a small evergreen deciduous tree reaching a height of 40 feet; a drought resistant species that can grow in sandy or clay soil; multi-stemmed from ground level; the pale-gray bark is smooth and stringy; the glossy leaves are narrow and tough; distinguished by creamy white, four-sided fruit; one of over 700 species of the genus Eucalyptus; Greek derivation: "eu", "calyptus" means "well" and "covered" which relates to the protective cover of the flower bud; oil used for medicinal purposes

**Uses:** turnery, veneer, decorative woodwork,

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# Marblewood

**Commercial Name:** Marblewood

**Scientific Name:** Marmaroxylon racemosum

**Other Names:** Snakewood, Bousi tamarin, Puta locus, Slang houdou, Snecki, Bois serpent, Bois zebra

**Geographical Origin:** Andaman Islands, Surinam, Guyana

**General Characteristics:** color is light yellowish brown to orange brown with distinctive dark brown or black streaks; medium texture with mostly straight grain; extremely dense with a low to medium luster; should be seasoned in small dimensions to avoid warping and checking

**The Tree:** a deciduous tree which can reach a height of 100 feet with clear boles up to 60 feet and diameters up to 2 feet; the base is heavily buttressed; it is the only species of the genus Marmaroxylon

**Uses:** decorative woodwork, turnery, tool handles, marquetry, flooring

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# Olivewood

**Commercial Name:** Olivewood

**Scientific Name:** Olea europaea

Other Name: Olivo wood, Olivier wood, Olbaum wood

**Geographical Origin:** Mediterranean, southern Europe, northern Africa, southwest United States, Florida

**General Characteristics:** Color is pale yellow with sparse distinctive brown streaks; close-grained and uniform texture with low luster; an evergreen hardwood with an important role in the history of civilization as a symbol of peace, wisdom, and victory. The olea europaea is the only species in the genus to produce edible fruit (an olive).

**The Tree:** A deciduous species which may reach a height of 80 feet but is usually much shorter; the bole is rarely straight and is distinguished by deep-fluted bark; gnarly-branched with trunks of 2 to 3 feet in diameter; can be very long-lived, 1500 years or more and can tolerate prolonged interval of water deprivation; often cultivated for its oils and fruit; same family as ash but can resemble the willow tree; burls are sometimes called olive ash burl; soft leaves with a grayish or silvery tint; one of the most frequently cited trees in recorded literature; considered the oldest cultivated tree, first cultivated in Crete and Syria over 5,000 years ago.

**Uses:** Carving, turnery, inlay and decorative woodwork

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*Paduak (African)*

**Commercial Name:** Paduak (African)

**Scientific Name:** Pterocarpus soyauxii

**Other Names:** Vermilion, African coralwood, Camwood, Barwood, Mbe, Mbil, Ngulu, Bosulu, Bois rouge, African Walnut

**Geographical Origin:** Central and tropical West Africa, common in dense equatorial rain forests

**General Characteristics:** the color is bright orange-red (fire-like) when freshly milled with a pleasant aromatic scent; darkens to purplish red or blood red upon exposure with some dark streaks; moderately coarse texture with straight to interlocked grain; medium to high luster; dries well with little distortion

**The Tree:** a deciduous tree with a height range of 100 to 130 feet; trunk diameters can range from 2 to as much as five feet; the straight, cylindrical bole can be clear for 75 feet; the reddish-gray bark will flake off; the compound leaves have 11-13 alternating leaflets and are said to be edible as a leaf vegetable, containing large amounts of vitamin C; requires abundant sunlight and moist soil

**Uses:** fine joinery, turnery, carving, veneers, decorative woodwork, tool and knife handles, flooring

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# Panga Panga

**Commercial Name:** Panga Panga

**Scientific Name:** *Millettia stuhlmanii*

**Other Names:** Wenge (same genus different species), Jambire, Mpande, partridge wood

**Geographical Origin:** tropical Africa, Tanzania, Mozambique

**General Characteristics:** somewhat lighter in color than Wenge due to paler tissue; brown to dark brown with some black streaking; coarse grain with primarily straight grain; Panga Panga holds its color better than Wenge; subject to surface checking in the drying process

**The Tree:** a deciduous tree with a height range of 60 to 90 feet and trunk diameters of 3 to 4 feet; the boles are generally straight and non-buttressed

**Uses:** turnery, veneer, decorative woodwork

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# Pink Ivory

**Commercial Name:** Pink Ivory

**Scientific Name:** Berchemia zeyheri

**Other Names:** Umnini, Umgoloti, red ivory

**Geographical Origin:** Rhodesia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, South Africa

**General Characteristics:** Color is uniformly bright pink or pale red; with exposure the heartwood tones to orange or orange brown; grain is straight to irregular with fine texture and low luster; commercially, the wood is produced in small quantities due the scattering of the trees over a wide area; legend has it that possession of this wood outside of the South African Zulu tribe, is punishable by death (this belief only increased the value of the wood for trade purposes)

**The Tree:** A drought-hardy, short deciduous tree(20 to 50 feet in height) with a spreading crown and trunk diameters commonly 7 to 9 inches; the bark is smooth and the leaves are characteristically small and oval shaped; the flowers are small and greenish-yellow in color; the fruits are small black berries with a similar appearance to buckthorn

**Uses:** Turnery, carving and decorative inlays

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# Praduak (Tiger Grain)

**Commercial Name:** Praduak (Tiger Grain)

**Scientific Name:** Pterocarpus macrocarpus

**Other Names:** Burma Paduak, Pradu, Terocarpus, Pradoo

**Geographical Origin:** southeast Asia including Myanmar(Burma), Viet Nam, Thailand, Kampuchea

**General Characteristics:** color is yellowish brown to brick red; medium coarse texture with interlocked grain producing the attractive tiger figure; medium to high luster

**The Tree:** a medium-sized deciduous tree with a height range of 60 to 80 feet, usually with clear, straight, cylindrical boles for 25 feet; trunk diameters are 2 to 3 feet; the grayish-brown bark is flaky secretes a red gum when cut; small, pinnate leaves with 9 to 11 leaflets; as an open-grown tree will display a large spreading crown

**Uses:** turnery, musical instruments, cabinet work, flooring, tool handles, sometimes substituted for teak

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# Purpleheart

**Commercial Name:** Purpleheart

**Scientific Name:** *Peltogyne paniculata*

**Other Names:** Amaranth, Violetwood, Palo morado, Pau roxo, Pau ferro

**Geographical Origin:** Mexico, Central America, South America

**General Characteristics:** Color is brown when freshly cut but quickly oxidizes to deep a purple upon exposure and eventually to dark brown with purplish sheen; grain is straight to wavy or roe-like; fine to medium texture with medium to high luster

**The Tree:** A large, deciduous canopy tree that can reach a height of 170 feet with diameters commonly 2-3 feet but sometimes as much as 4 feet; the boles are straight and cylindrical, being 60 to 90 feet clear above 12 foot buttresses; the bark is smooth and dark gray in color; leaves are leathery with only one pair of pointed oval leaflets, a rare occurrence

**Uses:** Turnery, marquetry, billiard cues, shipbuilding, exterior construction, flooring, and it produces a red dye for use in the textile industry

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# Red Heart

**Commercial Name:** Red Heart

**Scientific Name:** *Cosmocalyx spectabilis*

**Other Names:** chakte-kok

**Geographical Origin:** Yucatan, Central America

**General Characteristics:** brilliant bright red which will darken with age; fine straight, non-distinctive grained with medium luster

**The Tree:** a medium size, understory, deciduous tree that can reach a height of 70 to 75 feet and trunk diameter of 16-18 inches; the bark is thin and the leaves are elongated ovals in shape

**Uses:** turnery, tool handles, decorative inlays

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# Red Palm

**Commercial Name:** Red Palm

**Scientific Name:** *Cocos nucifera*

**Other Names:** Coconut wood, Coconut palm, Gelugu

**Geographical Origin:** Southeast Asia, South America, South Africa, Australia, Hawaii, Florida

**General Characteristics:** color is reddish dark brown with very distinctive creamy white or brown flecks; somewhat difficult to dry and is subject to checking; wide range of density within the wood

**The Tree:** a woody monocot (angiosperm), this classification also includes bamboo; can attain heights of 100 feet or more with the trunk clear to the graceful crown; grows worldwide in tropical regions requiring large amounts of sunlight and regular rainfall; is tolerant of sandy and high salinity soil; considered one of the most valuable trees for its wide range products, such as the coconut fruit and oils

**Uses:** a wide range of decorative woodworking due to its distinctive figure such as turnery, inlay work, and craft items; general construction; charcoal

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# Redwood (burl)

**Commercial Name:** Redwood (Burl)

**Scientific Name:** Sequoia sempervirens

**Other Names:** California redwood, California cedar, Coast redwood, Humboldt redwood, Corla, Ledwood

**Geographical Origin:** Pacific coast: Oregon to Central California

**General Characteristics:** color is light red to dark reddish brown; medium to coarse texture with exceptionally straight grain; dries well and is dimensionally stable; redwood burls are highly prized for their size and exceptionally beautiful figure

**The Tree:** a large coniferous tree reaching heights of 300 feet or more with trunk diameters up to 12 feet; the large buttressed trunk can be clear for 100 or more feet; the dark red bark is up to 12 inches in thickness; native to the Pacific coast region, growing along a narrow strip of land about 10 to 35 miles wide and 500 miles long; "Hyperion" a redwood, was discovered in 2006 to be the world's tallest tree at 379.1 feet

**Uses:** building construction, outdoor furniture; burls are used for turnery and veneer

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# Sheoak

**Commercial Name:** Sheoak

**Scientific Name:** Casuarina spp.

**Other Names:** She-oak, River sheoak, River-oak, Australian pine, Whistling pine, Grey sheoak, Agoho; Beefwood

**Geographical Origin:** Australia, Burma, Malay Peninsula, Africa, United States

**General Characteristics:** color is tan with a reddish to orange to brown complexion, darker in older trees; fine to medium texture with straight and interlocked grain; low luster; species with wide rays have attractive figure when quarter-sawn

**The Tree:** a rapidly growing deciduous tree with a height range of 120 to 150 feet with bole diameters up to 24 inches; the bole is generally straight, cylindrical and fluted; the tree resembles conifers with scale-like leaves on branches which look like pine needles which shed along with its fruit (a woody, cone-like structure); will grow in beach sand and has been introduced to tropical and semi-tropical areas around the world, including Florida

**Uses:** furniture, paneling, turnery, tool handles, fuel wood (charcoal); barrels for the brewing and storage of beer

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*Soft Maple (spalted)*

**Commercial Name:** Soft Maple (spalted)

**Scientific Name:** Acer spp.

**Other Names:** Red Maple, Carolina Red Maple, Silver Maple, Swamp Maple, Water Maple

**Geographical Origin:** Canada, United States

**General Characteristics:** color is creamy white to light tan to reddish brown; fine texture with mostly straight close grain; medium luster; dries well but subject to blue staining; subject to fungal infestation

**The tree:** a medium sized deciduous tree reaching heights up to 120 feet and diameters up to 3 feet; clear boles up to 60 feet; red maple is one of the most widely distributed in the U.S. and is the State Tree of Rhode Island; "Maple" is the National Tree of Canada

**Uses:** turnery and decorative woodwork (the spalted variety); boxes and crates; concealed parts for furniture and musical instruments

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# Sycamore

**Commercial Name:** Sycamore

**Scientific Name:** *Platanus occidentalis*

**Other Names:** American plane tree, Buttonwood, Buttonball, California button, Water beech, Cottonier

**Geographical Origin:** Canadian border south to the Gulf of Mexico; Atlantic coast west to the Great Plains

**General Characteristics:** color is creamy white to light brown; fine to medium close texture with irregular interlocking grain pattern and distinctive minute curly figure; low luster; somewhat difficult to dry due to the interlocking grain; subject to warping and decay

**The Tree:** a large deciduous tree which can reach a height of 120 feet and diameter of 5 feet; an enlarged bole often emanates from a tumid (swollen) base; its cream colored bark can be two or more inches thick and is distinguished by thin, green and brown scales which shed periodically and give Sycamore the name, "Ghost Tree"; this regular shedding of its bark rids the tree of bacteria and pollutants making it an ideal species for the urban forest

**Uses:** butcher blocks, boxes and crates, brush backs, woodenware

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# Tamarind (spalted)

**Commercial Name:** Tamarind (Spalted)

**Scientific Name:** Tamarindus indica

**Other Names:** Tamarinde, Tamarindo, Sweet tamarind, Celagi, Anbli, Tangal asam, Madeira mahogany

**Geographical Origin:** native to tropical Africa, naturalized to southeast Asia, Timor, East Indies, West Indies, Mexico, Central America, South America, South Florida

**General Characteristics:** mahogany-like, purplish-dark brown in color; fine textured; generally yields narrow boards of lumber because many of the trees become hollow-centered

**The Tree:** a small, evergreen-deciduous, savannah tree; height rarely exceeds 40 feet with a spreading, dome-shaped crown; often cultivated as a shade or ornamental tree due to its evergreen foliage and dense crown; some African tribes consider the tree to be sacred; superstition holds that one should never sleep under or tie a horse to the Tamarind Tree because of the corrosive effect of the fallen leaves; produces edible fruit

**Uses:** great variety in usage due to its world-wide availability; turnery, construction, furniture, boat building, valued for fuel for use in kilns and its charcoal is used in the manufacture of gun powder; medicinal uses

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# Tamarind (spalted)

**Commercial Name:** Tamarind (Spalted)

**Scientific Name:** Tamarindus indica

**Other Names:** Tamarinde, Tamarindo, Sweet tamarind, Celagi, Anbli, Tangal asam, Madeira mahogany

**Geographical Origin:** native to tropical Africa, naturalized to southeast Asia, Timor, East Indies, West Indies, Mexico, Central America, South America, South Florida

**General Characteristics:** mahogany-like, purplish-dark brown in color; fine textured; generally yields narrow boards of lumber because many of the trees become hollow-centered

**The Tree:** a small, evergreen-deciduous, savannah tree; height rarely exceeds 40 feet with a spreading, dome-shaped crown; often cultivated as a shade or ornamental tree due to its evergreen foliage and dense crown; some African tribes consider the tree to be sacred; superstition holds that one should never sleep under or tie a horse to the Tamarind Tree because of the corrosive effect of the fallen leaves; produces edible fruit

**Uses:** great variety in usage due to its world-wide availability; turnery, construction, furniture, boat building, valued for fuel for use in kilns and its charcoal is used in the manufacture of gun powder; medicinal uses

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# Tulip Wood

**Commercial Name:** Tulip Wood

**Scientific Name:** Dalbergia decipularis

**Other names:** Brazilian Tulip Wood, Brazilian Pinkwood, Pau rosa, Bois de Rose, Jacaranda rosa

**Geographical Origin:** Brazil

**General Characteristics:** A true rosewood with beautifully streaking with a range of colors from yellow, salmon pink, rose and violet; color has a tendency to fade with exposure; fine to medium texture with a medium to high luster; small dimensioned logs and billets due to the short and narrow stature of the tree.

**The Tree:** As already stated, the tulipwood tree is a small deciduous tree, generally reaching a height of 30 to 40 feet and diameter up to 16 inches; multi-trunked with the small, irregularly shaped boles yielding short saw logs

**Uses:** Turnery, veneers, inlays, brush backs, furniture; was a popular wood used during the Empire period by French craftsmen

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# Black & White Ebony

**Commercial Name:** Black & White Ebony

**Scientific Name:** Diospyros embryopteris

**Other Names:** Pale moon ebony, White ebony

**Geographical Origin:** Southeast Asia, Laos, Burma, Myanmar

**General Characteristics:** Heartwood is creamy white/yellow to tan with prominent irregular black streaking; fine texture with straight grain; limited quantities available on the commercial market

**The Tree:** A short, stout deciduous tree with a height range of 40-50 feet; with its wide spreading, dome-shaped crown it is often planted in parks for shade; dark green leaves with a glossy sheen; its fruits are often used in dyeing and tanning as well as for medicinal purposes

**Uses:** Turnery, cutlery handles, specialty woodwork

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# Zebra wood

**Commercial Name:** Zebra wood

**Scientific Name:** *Microberlinia brazzavillensis*

**Other Names:** Zebrano, Zingana, okwen, Allen ele, Akume, Amouk

**Geographical Origin:** West Coast of Africa (Gabon, Cameroon)

**General Characteristics:** Pale yellow to tan background with dark brown almost black variegated striping; medium to coarse wavy or interlocked grain with high luster; very distinctive odor when milled (barnyard-like); difficult to dry, subject to warping; preferably, this wood should be quarter-sawn for greater stability

**The Tree:** A beautiful, tall deciduous tree reaching a height of 150 feet with straight trunks of diameters up to 5 feet over low buttresses; the bark is very thick, sometimes as much as 12 inches; a compound leaf with eight pairs of leaflets; usually found in remote areas making for sometimes hazardous harvesting

**Uses:** Veneers, inlay, jewelry, turnery and decorative woodwork

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# Zircote

**Commercial Name:** Zircote

**Scientific Name:** Cordia dodecandra

**Other Names:** Sericote, Chakopte

**Geographical Origin:** Belize, Guatemala, Mexico

**General Characteristics:** heartwood color is variegated shades of dark brown to black with distinctive irregular, wavy dark streaking; fine to medium texture with an oily or waxy appearance; difficult to dry, subject to surface checking and end spitting; considered by many to be one of the world's most attractive woods; limited supplies available

**The tree:** a medium to large deciduous tree with a height range of 60-100 feet; a short, straight bole which can attain diameters up to 30 inches; large round or pyramidal shaped, very dense crown; the leaves are oval with a very rough texture which are sometimes used as sandpaper; produces edible fruit throughout the year

**Uses:** turnery, veneers, rifle stocks, fine woodworking; the fruit of the tree has, traditionally been used to make stewed Zircote candy, a delicacy; the bark of the tree can be boiled to produce a cough medicine

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# Wenge

**Commercial Name:** Wenge

**Scientific Name:** Millettia laurentii

**Other Names:** Panga panga (same genus different species), Awong, Mpande, Pallisandre du congo, Kiboto, Dikela, nson-so

**Geographical Origin:** Mozambique, Tanzania, Congo region, Gabon

**General Characteristics:** color is dark brown to almost black with alternate layers of light and dark forming a decorative figure; coarse texture with straight grain; low luster; tendency to be splintery

**The tree:** a medium sized, deciduous tree with a height range of 60 to 90 feet and diameter range of 3 to 4 feet; the non-buttressed bole is generally straight; the yellowish-gray bark is smooth and is the source of a condensed tannin; the leaves are compound with 7 to 9 pairs of leaflets

**Uses:** turnery, flooring, decorative woodwork, construction

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