



SPECIFICATIONS

MASSARANDUBA

Manilkara Bidentata

Also known as Brazilian Redwood or Bulletwood, Massaranduba is an economical alternative to Ipe. The species is widespread throughout Central and South America, grows in a variety of conditions and soils, and is quite large, making it an abundant species that is readily available. The Massaranduba tree grows to heights of 100 to 150 feet and has a wide trunk diameter. The trunk's long, straight bole means more straight grain yield and lower wastage levels.

Massaranduba has a reddish-brown heartwood and a pale brown sapwood, although there is little demarcation between the two. The wood is very strong and hard (hence, "Bulletwood"), yet it still machines well, causing only moderate blunting of cutting edges. Massaranduba also finishes well and polishes to a high shine.

As a decking and exterior wood, Massaranduba makes a great Ipe alternative due to its high weather and insect resistance. With its deep red color, it is also an attractive wood for decking. The wood will silver with exposure, but the red color can be maintained with periodic treatment (which is also recommended to control potentially problematic wood movement).

The downside of Massaranduba wood is that stability can sometimes be an issue. While the wood is quite weather, insect, and rot resistant, one should consider the geography and climate of the final installation point before deciding on Massaranduba as the right species. Massaranduba can sometimes check badly in sudden temperature and moisture shifts, so if your climate is prone to such extreme changes, this weakness should be taken into account. The checking and warpage can be controlled, however, through proper treatment with finishes and oils.

Massaranduba

Scientific Name: Balata ↯ (Family: Manilkara Bidentata)

A.T.I.B.T. Standard Name: Sapotaceae

Other Names: - Balata, Balata Rogue, Abeille, Bolletrie, Massaranduba, Purgo, Quinilla, Pamashto, and Ausubo

Massaranduba is a very hard, strong, and tough wood. It is equal or superior to greenheart in bending strength, shock resistance, hardness, shear, and in across-the-grain properties of compression and tension.

The Tree

Massaranduba is commonly a large, well formed tree reaching heights of 100 to 150 feet and diameters of 2 to 4 feet and occasionally up to 6 feet or more. Buttresses are usually lacking but the tree is often basally swollen. Boles measure 60-80 feet long and are cylindrical.

Wood Appearance

heartwood is light red to rose red when freshly cut, becoming light to dark reddish brown upon seasoning. The sapwood is whitish or pale brown; it is distinct but not sharply demarcated from the heartwood. The wood has a fine uniform texture without pronounced figure. The grain is usually straight but sometimes interlocked. The sometimes has a characteristic odor when green, but neither odor nor taste after seasoning.

Density

Massaranduba is extremely heavy and hard. Janka Hardness is 3190



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Natural Durability

The wood is termite-proof and very durable in the ground

Timber Processing

Seasoning: Seasons with little degrade, when piled in a manner to assure a slow rate of seasoning.

Working/Machining: Massaranduba is a moderately easy wood to work despite its high density. It machines and finishes to a very smooth surface and similar to white oak, it is rated as excellent in steam bending properties.

Assembly: Gluing the wood requires special care to acquire a good bond because of its resistance to the absorption of moisture.

Finishing: The wood takes a fine polish and has the appearance of walnut when finished.

Uses

The wood is used for many additional purposes other than decking including utility poles, fence posts, heavy construction, ax and tool handles, railway ties, heavy beams, marine and bridge construction, flooring, foundations, and to a great extent, for all types of carpentry and joinery. It is also reported to give good service as flooring in industrial plants and machine shops and in bench tops, stair treads, and truck bodies.