



Technical Information > Hardwood Timber Timber Species > African Idigbo



Terminalia ivorensis

Also known as: emeri (Ghana), framire (Ivory Coast)

Wood type

Hardwood

Distribution

Occurs in Equatorial Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Ghana, southern Nigeria, in parts of the rain forest and throughout the deciduous forest areas

The Tree

A tall tree with a buttressed trunk attaining a height of over 30m and commonly 1.0m or more in diameter. The buttresses are broad and blunt, but the bole usually is clean and straight, 20m or more above the buttress.

The Timber

A plain, pale yellow to light brown coloured wood. sometimes relieved by a zonal figure originating in the growth rings, suggesting plain oak. There is little distinction between sapwood and heartwood, though the latter is somewhat darker in colour. The grain is straight to slightly irregular, and the texture is somewhat coarse and uneven. It is soft to medium hard, and weighs about 560 kg/m³ when dried. The weight is often variable, due to a prevalence of lightweight brittle-heart, particularly in large, over-mature logs. It may vary from 480 to 625 kg/m³ but for general assessment, the average dry weight is as given. Idigbo dries readily and well, with little distortion and splitting, and shrinkage is small.



Drying

Dries rapidly and well with little checking or distortion and knots split only slightly.

Strength

It has excellent strength properties, being as strong and stiff as English oak in bending, although considerably softer and less resistant to shock loads. It splits easily and has been used in West Africa for roof shingles. When converting large logs the heart should be boxed out as the brittle-heart has very much lower strength properties than the normal wood. In freshly converted stock, brittle-heart may often be recognised by a distinctive pinkish colour which may develop after exposure to light for a few days. Natural compression failures, often referred to as "thunder shakes" usually accompany brittle-heart.

Working Qualities

Medium - The timber works easily with most hand and machine tools. It has little dulling effect on cutting edges and a clean finish is obtained in most operations. There is a tendency however, for the grain to pick up when quarter-sawn material is planed, and a reduction of cutting angle to 20° or less is advisable where smooth surfaces are required. Idigbo turns well and has fairly good nail and screw holding properties and will take glue well; stains effectively and reacts well to finishing treatments.

Durability

Moderately durable

Treatability

Extremely difficult

Moisture Movement

Small

Density (mean,Kg/m³)

560 (Density can vary by 20% or more)

Texture

Medium

Availability

Variable



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Price

Medium

Chemical Properties

Stains yellow in contact with water, stains in contact with iron when wet. Acidic and may corrode ferrous metals.

Use(s)

Exterior joinery, Interior joinery, Plywood

Colour(s)

White/cream, Light brown

IDIGBO

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