

Technical Information > Timber Species Database

> Kapur



Dryobalanops spp, Dryobalanops aromatica, Dryobalanops oblongifolia, Dryobalanops lanceolata, Dryobalanops fusca, Dryobalanops beccarii

Also known as: Sarawak kapur, Sabah kapur, keladan, Malaysian kapur, Indonesian kapur

Wood type Hardwood

Various species of the genus *Dryobalanops* are distributed over part of Malaya, Sumatra, and Borneo, including Sarawak, Brunei, Sabah and East Kalimantan. The various species comprising kapur are given below. *Dryobalanops aromatica* Gaertn. f. and *D. oblongifolia* Dyer, produce Malaysian kapur for export, but locally the latter species is known as keladan.

Introduction

Dryobalanops aromatica Gaertn. f. *D. lanceolata* Burck., and possibly other species produce Sarawak kapur. *Dryobalanops lanceolata* Burck, and *D. beccarii* Dyer, and possibly other species produce Sabah kapur. *Dryobalanops aromatica* Gaertn. f. and *D. oblongifolia* Dyer are the principal species producing Indonesian kapur shipped from Sumatra. *Dryobalanops aromatica* Gaertn. f., *D. oblongifolia* Dyer. *D. beccarii* Dyer., *D. fusca* V.SI. and *D. lanceolata* Burck, and possibly other species produce Indonesian kapur shipped from Borneo.

Environmental

The [IUCN Red List](#) of Threatened Species lists *Drylobanops aromatica* and *D fusca* as **CR** – Critically Endangered: at extremely high risk of extinction and *D beccarii* and *D lanceolata* as **EN** – Endangered: at very high risk of extinction. Not listed in CITES. Believed available from well-managed sources. Check certification status with suppliers.

The Tree

The trees vary according to species and environment, but usually they are very large, often reaching a height of 60m and a diameter of 1.5m to 2.0m with slightly tapering boles some 30m long above the buttresses. Although tending to grow gregariously, it never forms pure stands.

The Timber

The sapwood is whitish to yellowish-brown in colour, up to 75mm wide, and clearly defined from the heartwood, which is a light rose-red when

freshly cut, becoming rose-red to reddish-brown on exposure, often (particularly when fresh) with a pronounced camphor-like odour. It is fairly straight grained, moderately coarse but even textured, and is moderately hard and heavy. There is often a superficial resemblance to keruing, but on examination of end grain it will be seen that kapur has continuous gum ducts in concentric lines. These individual canals are smaller than the vessels, and are often filled with white resin ; this does not exude over the surface of the wood. The different species vary somewhat in weight, but on average they are as follows;

Malaysian kapur 790 kg/m³

Sarawak kapur 750 kg/m³

Sabah kapur 750 kg/m³

Indonesian kapur 590 to 830 kg/m³

all when dried.

Drying	Reported to dry fairly well with only a slight tendency to warp and check.
Strength	From the results of limited tests it would seem that in the green state kapur is only slightly superior to teak in general strength properties, but when dried, it is harder, and some 15 per cent stronger in bending, and about 50 per cent stiffer and more resistant to suddenly applied loads than teak.
Working Qualities	Medium - Works moderately well with both hand and machine tools, but is variable in respect of dulling of cutting edges, but on the whole kapur is slightly better than the average run of keruing. Cutters should be kept well sharpened to avoid trouble from raised grain and to obtain a smooth finish. Takes nails, screws, stains and polish satisfactorily.
Durability	Durable
Treatability	Extremely difficult
Moisture Movement	Medium
Density (mean, Kg/m³)	770 (Density can vary by 20% or more)
Texture	Medium
Availability	Variable
Price	Medium
Chemical Properties	Camphor like odour, especially when freshly cut
Use(s)	Exterior joinery
Colour(s)	Reddish brown
Suppliers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roger Haydock & Co Limited

- [Kapur \(Origin: Imported - Strength Grade: HS - Strength Class: D60\)](#)
- [Kapur \(Origin: Imported - Strength Grade: HS - Strength Class: Species/grade specific data\)](#)